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BY STEPHEN RENO

GRANITE VIEWS

Our new neighbors



His name is Oscar. He treated me most kindly. I was a patient at a Manchester hospital and Oscar was the orderly assigned to my floor. Regularly, he came in to check my room, arrange things, and make sure I was comfortable. We'd chat briefly, but despite short exchanges, I quickly picked up on his quiet dignity and air of professionalism. Each visit occasioned a longer conversation, until, after a couple of days, it was time for me to be discharged.

At the appointed hour, Oscar appeared. As we prepared for me to go, I asked how long he'd been in New Hampshire, where he'd come from originally, and what were his longer-term plans. Oscar's response, confided in an almost embarrassed manner, startled me. He was from the Philippines, had been in the Granite State four years, and had been an attorney and majority leader in the Philippine House of Representatives.

Instead of wheeling me to the front door of the hospital, Oscar continued our conversation and brought me all the way out, across the parking lot, to my car. We discussed the challenges of ultra partisan politics, the potential for corruption among elected officials, and his longing to be involved again in the practice of law and in public life. He also shared with me his gratitude for his adopted country, his appreciation of American openness and sense of opportunity, and thankfulness for his current job, which, while not the practice of law, was a form of service to others.

I shared Oscar's story recently with a friend as she, herself the daughter of an immigrant family, spoke of the many individuals we encounter every day in New Hampshire whose color, dress, and customs set them apart from others in our experience. Theirs may be menial jobs — serving us in a convenience store, or changing the linens in our hotel room. We may be courteous and appreciative of their service, but our knowledge of them never goes very deep.

Yet what wealth may lie beneath an exterior we think we know! Recently, a female physician moved from her native country to Manchester. She had been chief medical officer at the major health facility back home. Here, she could not practice medicine or qualify for service in health care beyond serving as an orderly unless she virtually repeated most of her medical education.

How many such stories reside in the immigrants and refugees we pass by each day here in New Hampshire? What would they say about the bittersweet experience of having come to a place of opportunity while encountering such a gap between who they were and who they might be?

I'm tempted to suggest a new kind of StoryCorps: a vehicle like that heard each Friday morning on NHPR, in which people are interviewed by family and friends about their distinctive life story. I never manage to listen to one without either shedding a tear or laughing out loud. But regardless of my reaction, I am enriched by having listened. Perhaps we should find a way to listen to our new neighbors.

Stephen Reno is executive director of Leadership New Hampshire & former Chancellor of USNH.

(CORRECTION: Last week, the "Granite Views" column was incorrectly accompanied by a photo of Patrick Duffy. Stephen Reno wrote that week's article as well.)

12 NH got game



New Hampshire's prep schools are turning out the next generation of college and professional basketball stars. Adam Coughlin looks at the surprising story behind our state's role as a star-maker. On the cover: Photographer Gil Talbot (giltalbot.com) caught the action at Tilton School's (in black and yellow) Dec. 7 home game against Worcester Academy. Tilton won 77 to 62.

Also on the cover: This issue is packed with our recommendations for **gifts for everyone** — even the presidential primary candidates. We've got gifts for art lovers (page 22), for kids (page 28), for gardeners (page 36), for techies (page 39), for cooks (page 42), for music lovers (pages 53 and 65), for geeks (page 55) and for book lovers (page 58).

And we've got the info on some **holiday week vacation camps** you can enroll in now for peace of mind all around. There's a Lego camp, art camp and more. See page 34.

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News in Brief

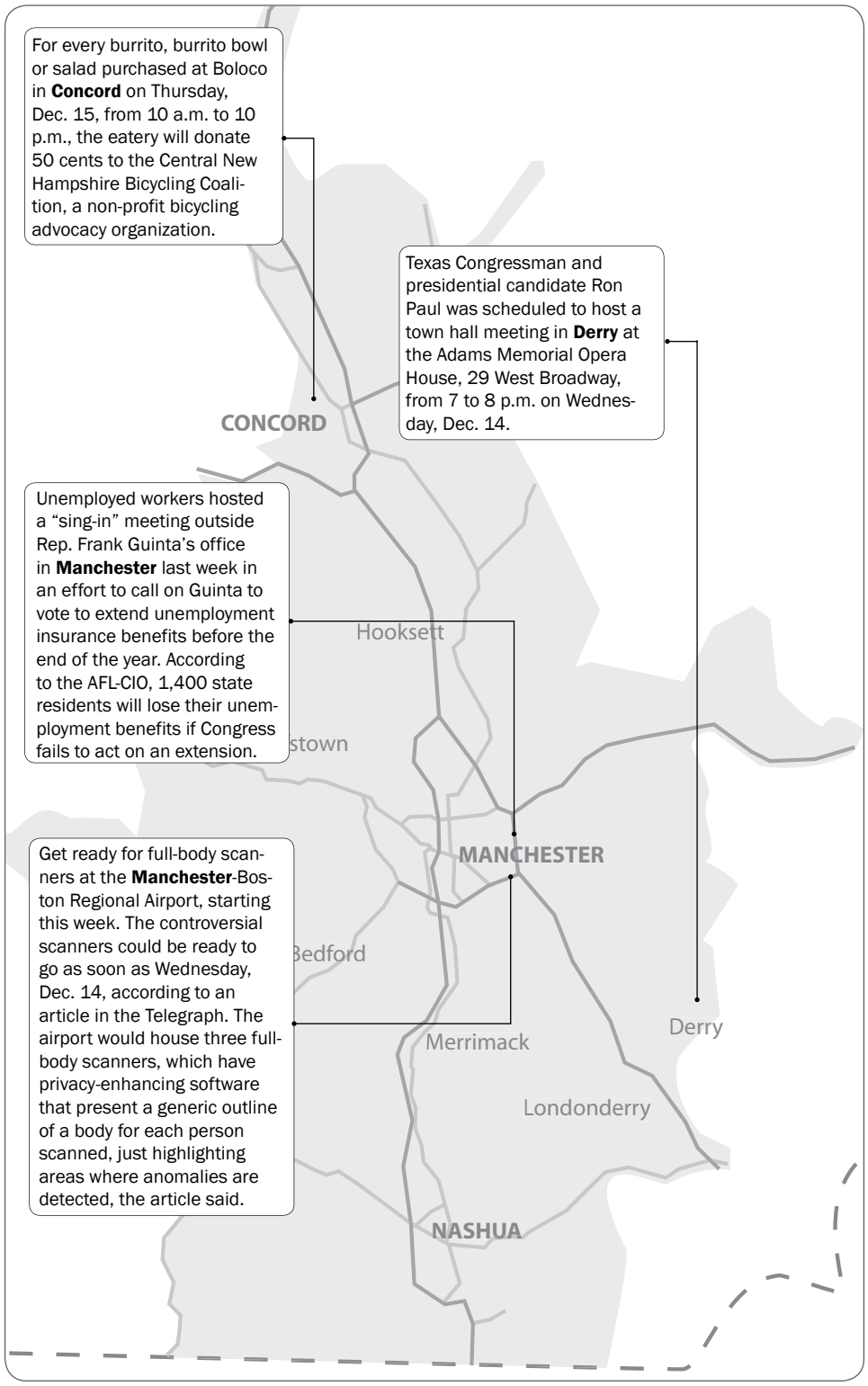
• **Manchester mayor endorses Romney:** Mitt Romney might be facing the first legitimate challenge for the GOP nomination in the form of Newt Gingrich, but he's still picking up big-name support in New Hampshire. Romney recently picked up the endorsement of Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas. Gatsas is considered by some to be a potential candidate for governor. In Gatsas, Romney picks up one of the few big-name remaining undeclared endorsements in the state. "Mitt Romney has the skills and the executive experience that the next president will need to turn around our struggling economy. After spending 25 years in the private sector as a successful businessman, Mitt knows how to balance budgets, fix broken enterprises and create jobs. He is also the strongest Republican candidate with the best organization to take on President Obama in 2012," Gatsas said in a statement. "I am also impressed with the time and effort that he has invested in New Hampshire. Mitt is running the type of traditional grassroots campaign that Granite Staters expect from presidential candidates and he is working hard to earn the support needed to win the primary."

• **Kamen, others oppose gay marriage repeal:** New Hampshire inventor extraordinaire Dean Kamen formally joined the effort to prevent gay marriage from being repealed in New Hampshire. Kamen tops a bipartisan list of activists, political leaders and business leaders who are opposing any effort to repeal the state's gay marriage law. The group, called Standing Up for NH Families, consists of more than 200 state and local leaders, including former state Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick, George Bald, commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, and Sherry Young, president and co-founder of the Rath Young and Pignatelli law firm. Visit www.standingupfornhfamilies.org. Gov. John Lynch signed a law legalizing same-sex marriage in New Hampshire in 2009. Lawmakers are expected to take up a bill next year that would repeal the law.

• **Obama grants NH request for disaster aid:** New Hampshire got good news last week as President Barack Obama granted Gov. John Lynch's request for a presidential declaration making the Granite State eligible for federal disaster aid to help cover costs resulting from the historic October snow storm. The declaration will provide aid to help cover the cost of damage to public infrastructure in Hillsborough and Rockingham counties. Communities, the state and FEMA assessment teams estimated damage to public infrastructure in those two counties to be nearly $3 million. The snowstorm, which hit the region on Halloween weekend, produced record snow fall at a time when most trees were still covered with leaves. The storm caused the second-largest number of utility customer power outages in the state's history. "This federal aid will help local communities with the cost of responding to and recovering from this historic storm," Lynch said in a statement. At the height of the storm, more than 40 state roads and more than 250 local roads were closed or restricted due to downed power lines and debris. Some 122 elementary and secondary schools were closed statewide, many for several days, the release said. A total of 12 shelters and six warming stations were opened during the storm. The storm also knocked out power to about 300,000 customers. The storm occurred less than 60 days after Tropical Storm Irene caused significant damage across the state.

• **Developmental Disabilities group honors legislators:** State Sen. Chuck Morse was recently honored as the "Outstanding Legislator" for 2011 by the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council cited Morse's leadership on the Senate Finance Committee during this year's budget negotiations. The Council also lauded Morse's willingness "to be accessible to people with disabilities and their families and to listen to their concerns," said Carol Stamatakis, executive director of the Council, in a statement. Morse, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, returned to the Senate in 2010, after four years away from the Statehouse. "I was determined to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit, which we did," Morse said in a statement, "but all the while, I kept in mind the needs of those individuals and families who depend so heavily on state services. We can't help everyone as much as we'd like, but I am always willing to listen to people. We heard some really heart-breaking stories during our budget deliberations, stories that you don't quickly forget." Rep. Donna Schlachman, D-Exeter, was named the Outstanding Legislator in the House, while Linda Quintanilha was honored as the "Advocate of the Year."

• **New program allows more mortgage refinancing; beware scams:** As of Dec. 1, homeowners who are "under water" with their mortgages can refinance under the Home Affordable Refinance Program. The Better Business Bureau is warning residents that banks and mortgage companies aren't the only ones gearing up for a rush of applications, according to a BBB press release. "Whenever there is a new or updated government program that may be a bit confusing, scammers come out of the woodwork to take advantage of that confusion," said Robert Shomphe, president and CEO of the New Hampshire BBB, in a statement. Already, there are hundreds of websites claiming to be able to help homeowners through the HARP process, but many of them are rip-offs and scams, the release said. The BBB is warning homeowners who are thinking of applying for HARP refinancing, to deal directly with your lender first and never make payments to anyone other than your lender. The BBB says not to pay upfront fees to anyone who promises to provide counseling, or to take care of the paperwork or to stop the foreclosure process. Be wary of anyone who tells you not to contact your lender, an attorney or a credit counselor, or who asks for payment by cashier's check or wire transfer. Never sign over your deed to anyone or allow yourself to be pressured into signing something you don't understand. And be particularly careful of look-alike and sound-alike websites, the release said. Visit www.bbb.org. The changes to the HARP program were announced by President Barack Obama in October to allow homeowners to refinance at lower interest rates, even if their home is currently worth less than their mortgage. The new rules apply to homeowners who are up to date on their payments, and whose loans are backed by either FannieMae or FreddieMac.



• **RIP, Andover Rep. Michael Cox:** State Rep. Sean Cox, R-Andover, died this past weekend. "I was saddened to learn of the passing of Representative Sean Cox," said Republican State Committee Chairman Wayne MacDonald, in a statement. "He was a tireless advocate for his constituents and fought to advance the Republican principles of limited government, low taxes and fiscal responsibility. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time." Cox served on the Science, Technology and Energy Committee. As of earlier this week, news reports indicated that the circumstances of Cox's death were unclear. House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt said in a statement he was shocked and saddened to learn of Cox's death.

• **Audubon partners with National Wildlife Federation:** New Hampshire Audubon has become the New Hampshire affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. The two organizations will remain independent but will collaborate on shared conservation, education and policy concerns. The organizations will share expertise and resources to ensure that New Hampshire's wildlife and open spaces can be enjoyed, said Michael Bartlett, New Hampshire Audubon president, in an organization press release. NWF affiliates are independent organizations that choose to affiliate with the Federation. The partnership does not change the Audubon's independent tradition dating back to 1914. The National Wildlife Federation was founded 75 years ago and has four million members and supporters. New Hampshire contributes 9,639 members.

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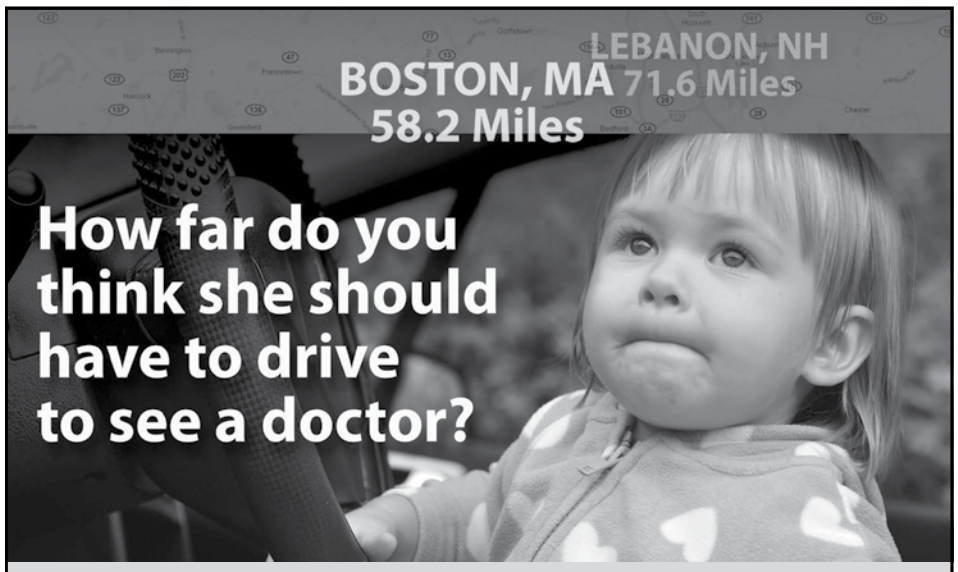
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Gifts for the pols

Hey, the candidates need love too

By Adam Coughlin and Jeff Mucciarone
news@hippopress.com

The holiday season is a time to give back. Over the past 10 months the Republican presidential candidates have given us so much — Michele Bachmann taught us American history, Rick Perry shared with us his photographic memory and Herman Cain reminded us that maybe Papa Gino's isn't so bad. We have taken so much from the highs and lows of these candidates that we decided it was time to give back. So in the spirit of the season we are going to give each candidate a holiday gift. Some could use some better polling numbers, a more consistent message or just a hug. Local politicians could use some gifts as well. We made sure not to leave them out.

Jon Huntsman: A new campaign manager, more specifically Bono — Huntsman is a talented musician, cares deeply about issues going on around the world, looks good in a pair of sunglasses and practices politics that transcend a particular party. Basically, he's Bono without the popularity. Imagine Huntsman's poll numbers if his campaign were also the opening for U2's national tour. Bonus: it could bring U2 to NH!

Michele Bachmann: *Lexington and Concord: The Beginning of the War of the American Revolution* by Arthur B. Tourtellot, available at Amazon.com for $11.91. Bachmann was the Tea Party darling very early in the campaign but she got off on a sour note in the Granite State by declaring it was the location where the Revolutionary War began. Since Bachmann's strategy led her to Iowa and away from New Hampshire this was a lasting mistake for many voters.

Mitt Romney: An evil twin. It's been tough for Romney, who has always been the frontrunner and has had to go against a different flavor of the week seemingly every week. A lot of people don't gravitate to Romney because he seems too perfect. This is why his evil twin would help. Imagine Romney, his hair messed up, his shirt hanging out and ketchup on his jeans. This is a man the American people could relate to. If Romney got into a two-person duel not with Perry or Cain or Gingrich but with himself, well, then his odds of winning would be much higher.

Rick Perry: Britney Spears' sophomore album, *Oops!... - I Did It Again*. Many believe Perry's campaign hit an insurmountable roadblock during 53 seconds of a debate when Perry could not remember the three government agencies he would cut as president. Perry famously said, "Oops." Plus, the song of the same name is 3 minutes and 32 seconds, so Perry could keep his meltdown on loop almost four times without having to switch songs.

Newt Gingrich: The Personal Brain, a new piece of software from thebrain.com that allows people to organize all the different thoughts they have and then easily call upon them. This is perfect for Gingrich, who is known as an "ideas man." Unfortunately, many pundits have suggested that Gingrich gets infatuated with an idea and then starts talking about it before really thinking it over. By using the Personal Brain, Gingrich will be able to categorize his ideas and then call upon the best ones during debates.

Rick Santorum: A stress ball. Andy Samberg often portrays Santorum on *Saturday Night Live* as high-strung and easily flustered. But that is essentially the end of the shtick. If Santorum had a stress ball to work out some of his low-percentage-in-the-polls frustration, perhaps he would be immune to parody, which would give him a certain gravitas.

Ron Paul: South African gold krugerrands. Unlike some of the candidates, Paul has never changed his views in more than 30 years of politics. He is adamant about getting rid of the Federal Reserve. If that happened, it would certainly be beneficial for him to have a reserve of gold coins as backup. He's going to need some money to buy holiday gifts for his son, Rand Paul, a Kentucky senator.

Herman Cain: A hug... and a thin-cut pizza.

Buddy Roemer and **Fred Karger**: An attentive audience. The two presidential candidates probably know they don't have a shot in the presidential primary, but that hasn't stopped them from tirelessly working in New Hampshire. Both have distinctly unique and interesting messages, but who is listening?

Gary Johnson: A time machine. Johnson is reportedly considering, at this late stage in the game, switching to Libertarian in the presidential primary. Who knows how the move would turn out, but we're guessing, given what he knows now, that he'd have been better off running as a Libertarian from the start.

Gov. John Lynch: A re-do on education funding — Lynch's proposal for an education funding amendment was rejected by the House last month, but there still appears to be interest from Republicans to get something done. If he could do it over, his roll-out of his proposal might be a bit smoother. We're guessing Lynch would like to leave the corner office as the governor who helped get the education funding issue taken care of.

William O'Brien: Seven Republican votes. That's how many votes kept the House from overriding Lynch's veto of right-to-work legislation. O'Brien, the House speaker, needed seven more Republicans to vote with him on this issue. So far, the right-to-work issue has been the only major setback for O'Brien as leader of a House with a massive majority. House leaders have said this isn't the last the public will hear of right-to-work.

Ovide Lamontagne: A time shifter. It's not that Lamontagne needs to go back in time; he needs to shift time so that his high popularity of earlier this year matches up with the actual gubernatorial election a little less than a year from now. Lamontagne would have seemingly been unbeatable in the gubernatorial race in the spring and early summer of this year when he achieved kingmaker status in the presidential primary, or at least that's what major national news organizations like the New York Times were writing. It's not that Lamontagne is necessarily faltering, but he might have peaked a little early. He's still probably the frontrunner in the gubernatorial race, but the field could be getting much more crowded soon, with at least one other formidable player.

Ted Gatsas: A balanced city budget. A difficult budget season is perhaps the one major obstacle to Gatsas' entering the gubernatorial race. We also considered giving the Manchester mayor a time machine so he could go back to earlier this year and not say he would serve the full two years if re-elected this fall. But we weren't sure he'd say anything different at that time.

Maggie Hassan: A primary. That might sound weird, but a serious primary challenge might be just what Hassan needs to elevate herself into the statewide political discourse. Now if the primary challenge came in the form of Stonyfield Yogurt CEO Gary Hirshberg, that's another story.

Ray Buckley: Gov. John Lynch to reconsider. It's not a shot at Maggie Hassan, but Buckley's life would be a whole lot easier if Lynch would just run again, for a record fifth term. Lynch, who fended off a serious challenge from John Stephen in 2010, would be extremely difficult to beat in 2012. Buckley can dream.

Pigs in the wild

Invasive species' destructive impact is growing

By Jeff Mucciarone
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The pigs are on the loose.

Not that many of them — maybe 100 to 200 — but feral swine are living and presumably multiplying in the Granite State, and that's not good news, say wildlife officials.

Feral swine, wild pigs, razorbacks, wild boar, Russian boar — whatever name you choose — are the largest mammalian, exotic, invasive species in the country and their size translates into sizable destruction. The presence of feral swine is bad news for wildlife, farmers and potentially mankind, thanks to the pigs' tendency to carry diseases and parasites.

The pigs in New Hampshire tend to be concentrated in the Cornish and Grantham area, though pigs have been found in Littleton and Peterborough. Most sightings occur in Grafton, Sullivan and Cheshire counties.

Wild pigs in this country have ties to domestic swine, Eurasian or Russian wild boar, and pigs introduced by Spanish explorers, as well as hybrids of all three. The country has seen feral swine numbers expand greatly in the last 30 years, according to an article by Tony Musante in the state Fish and Game's Wildlife Journal. Musante works for Wildlife Services in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

It's likely the hogs in New Hampshire escaped from a game preserve called Corbin Park that spans 24,000 acres in Cornish, Plainfield, Grantham and Newport. Still, officials said the genetic makeup of the swine is diverse enough to suggest the pigs didn't all come from the farm.

"There is a mix," said Mark Ellingwood, a biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game. "There is some diversity in the type of pigs encountered. It suggests there may be more than one source."

The sense is that the majority of the animals in New Hampshire are of Eurasian background. The Southeast part of the U.S. is typified by a spotted variety of swine. There are no native free-ranging wild pigs in this country. The Russian boar is a wild species that was relocated into this country particularly for sporting. Settlers and pioneers introduced pigs in the 1500s and allowed them to range freely, then hunting them as a food source. The result is an extremely diverse genetic makeup, Ellingwood said.

"It's quite a soup of different genetics," Ellingwood said.

From the perspective of the state Fish and Game Department, the animals, which typically weigh between 75 and 250 pounds, are an invasive exotic mammal. During the past several decades, a number of states have seen feral pig populations increase dramatically. Feral swine used to be more restricted to California and the southern regions of the country. The largest populations of pigs are still in those regions, but through natural expansion and purposeful relocation, pigs are on the move. Wild pigs now have a presence in northern states, such as Michigan, New York and New Hampshire.



Officials estimate there are 100 to 200 feral swine in New Hampshire. Photo courtesy of USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services.

Biologists want the public to know that purposefully relocating pigs is ill-advised, illegal, and not in the best interest of the rest of the environment. They would like to eliminate the animals from the landscape entirely.

Swine are extremely adaptable, as evidenced by their ability to survive in places like Michigan, where biologists hadn't thought they could. In Texas, officials estimate there could be 1.5 to 2 million free-ranging pigs. Nationally, experts suggest there could be more than five million animals, Ellingwood said.

Ellingwood said they are considered the most significant exotic mammalian pest species in the U.S. Populations are isolated in New Hampshire, as they are in states like New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. But there is plenty of concern about the pigs' ability to reproduce and grow in numbers quickly — they are perhaps the most reproductive large mammal on the globe. As early as six months old, pigs can reproduce. They can produce anywhere from three to 13 piglets per birthing event, and they can reproduce more than twice per year, officials said.

"They have the capacity to expand very quickly," Ellingwood said. "In addition, our landscape is not adapted to their presence."

Ellingwood said pigs can affect sensitive plant communities. Aggressive omnivores with few predators, pigs consume pretty much all forms of plant material, much of which — acorns, berries and beech nuts — other species depend on. About 90 percent of their diet is vegetative, though they will also eat insects, frogs, salamanders, earthworms, and eggs from ground nesting birds, like turkey and grouse.

Wild pigs could alter populations of deer and other animals that consume acorns and berries. Reports also indicate feral swine have been known to attack and eat deer fawns. They'll also eat sensitive species, such as salamanders.

"They have the capacity to more or less go through areas and forage so efficiently and with such a dramatic impact that they could have a very negative impact on our species," Ellingwood said.

Musante wrote that in Florida feral swine have caused major problems with several species, including sea turtles — swine eat the eggs in sea turtle nests. Super-competitive and voracious eaters, feral swine can all but eliminate needed food sources for other species, such as deer and black bear.

"You can see that if they are in high abundance, they can impact sensitive species," Ellingwood said.

Pigs can have a big impact on the ground as well. They turn over soil aggressively, a behavior called rooting.

"They essentially go through the woods like mechanized cultivators," Ellingwood said. "They're turning over soil, disrupting roots, exposing the land to erosion."

Their rooting behavior can cause destruction in the soil from 6 inches to 2 feet deep. Rooting can be a big issue in wetlands, where pigs can easily pull out roots and tubers and create wallows where they can bask in the mud. They can create contamination in the wetlands, turbidity, as well as deposits of E. coli and fecal matter, "all of which contribute to a reduction in the quality of wetland resources," Ellingwood said.

Wild pigs carry disease risks as well. They are said to carry as many as 30 different diseases and 37 different parasites, some of which can be contracted by humans. There was a significant E. coli contamination in California a few years ago caused by feral swine, Ellingwood said.

They have the capacity to serve as a very effective reservoir of foreign animal diseases, including perhaps foot and mouth disease, which was eradicated from the continent through great expense in the early 1900s. If it were to reoccur, it could be difficult to control given the reservoir of free-ranging pigs in this country, Ellingwood said.

"We would be hard-pressed to successfully deal with the disease as we have in the past," Ellingwood said.

Farmers would have reason to be concerned, since pigs can cause significant damage to all agricultural crops, by their rooting and trampling. The pigs can have a major impact on forests as well, in that they rub and scrape trees, while also consuming vegetation.

Nationally, Musante wrote that feral swine behavior results in about $1.5 billion in agricultural and environmental damage each year.

Eliminating the pigs

In Ellingwood's estimation, there's no benefit to having the pigs around.

So far officials in New Hampshire have tried trapping pigs and in some instances dispatching the animals. There is a small community of people who pursue the pigs for food. The animals are technically the property of the source, which is presumed to be Corbin Park.

The free-ranging pigs in New Hampshire, however, are not Fish and Game's to manage. If people want to hunt them, they need a valid hunting license, and permission from the source. According to reports, Corbin Park will grant permission, though it doesn't claim ownership. The farm has been a good partner in the effort to contain the population, Ellingwood said.

"It's not a species we manage," Ellingwood said. "We don't have regulatory authority over feral hogs or wild pigs. Quite honestly, I wouldn't advocate for a season, because that gives value to the species. We don't want to assign them a value.... We don't want to establish them as a managed species. We'd like to eliminate the species."

Don't mess with them

Physically, wild pigs are imposing. But people shouldn't be concerned that the animals will attack. If they are backed into a corner, they can be formidable, but as a rule they aren't interested in conflict with humans.

"They are extremely shy," Ellingwood said. "They would typically flee from the presence of a person."

There's little potential for a pig to seek out a physical encounter with a person, but again, if they were backed into a corner or injured, or if someone tried to grab one, "[the pig] would end up on the high side of the exchange," Ellingwood said.

Pigs, particularly males, which are called boars, have tusks they use competitively in fights for dominance with other males. They have sharp teeth and typically weigh in the range of 75 to 250 pounds. They're also smart, fast and evasive. Coloring varies, but most are brown or black. Once wild pigs reach about 40 pounds, they are pretty much free of any substantial predation in the natural environment.

Males tend to be solitary animals outside of the breeding season, but females, called sows, often congregate in groups of two or three other females, along with piglets and "sub-adult" males, Musante wrote.

If landowners have property damage in New Hampshire due to feral swine, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will help by trapping and shooting hogs, Musante wrote. To report feral swine damage, call Tony Musante at 223-6832.

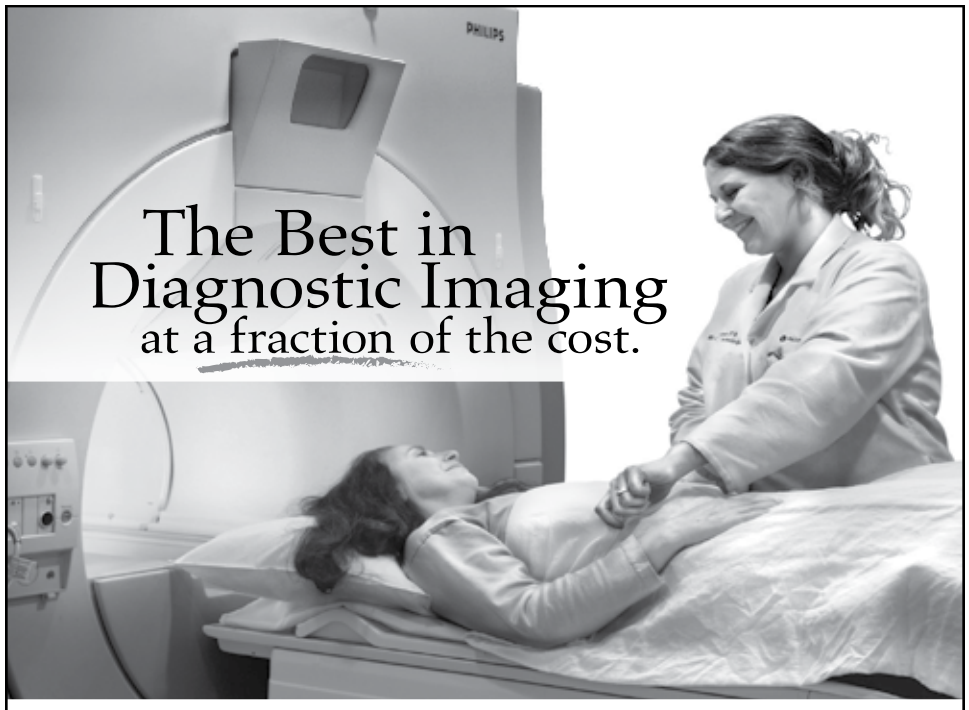
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Finding the word

Rev. Stecker analyzes political speeches

Rev. Frederick Stecker, an Episcopal minister and resident of New London, takes a psychoanalytic perspective in his new book, *The Podium, the Pulpit, and the Republicans: How Presidential Candidates Use Religious Language in American Political Debate*. Stecker holds doctorates from Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine and the Institute for the Study of Violence of the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. Visit www.frederickstecker.com.

Q: ***How did you come up with the idea for this book?***

I am a retired minister and I have lived in New London for 30 years. I was at the parish for 23 years. ... I retired and I went back to school at age 55 to the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. … The book initially came from that dissertation. ...

So what made you delve into this topic?

In 2003, I sat bolt upright in the middle of the night having listened to George Bush address troops at Fort Hood in Texas. ... Even though he was saying Muslims were good, wonderful people, he was also inciting a kind of war between Christianity and Islam. That's what I thought was going on, so ... I started to look into the language of it. There's a linguist out of the University of California at Berkeley, and he, [George Lakoff], posits that ... that Republicans tend to be strict parents and Democrats tend to be nurturing parents. … That's not literally true. We're a mixture of nurtured and strict. There are soft sides and hard sides to all of us, but you can only be one thing at a time about a specific issue. ... I wanted to see if Lakoff was correct, so I examined the language of the debates of 2000 and 2004. [Stecker developed a system for coding and scoring "strict parent" language and "nurturing parent" language.] ... George Bush used more strict parent language than Al Gore did, and Gore used more nurturing parent language. …

[Stecker spotted a religious component.]

The strict parent words were closer to religious words for Republicans. [For Republicans], there is a strict parent, hierarchical and judgmental God, and nurturing parents have more of a pastoral, kinder God, a less clearly defined God, the liberal Unitarian view. I discovered that there were ... stealth religious words and often times they invoked judgment and fear. … I suggested that they were aimed at speaking to the child in the adult, because trust is a considered decision; fear is not. I saw patterns in Bush's speech, in [John McCain], with Sarah Palin ... Dick Cheney.

And the religious side of this...

The religious right exercised its foot soldiers and began to take on Republican candidates and pressure them for more moralist religious positions, against abortion ... for school prayer. …

What are you seeing right now in the presidential primary?

Right now they're going around and they're very much tippy-toeing around [Mitt Romney's] religion. … Nobody's talking about it. Most think [Mormonism] is Christian. It's not. It's a derivative.

So are things a little different this time around?

Fundamentalists are really scared of Romney. Because he doesn't represent them.



They don't know what he represents. They don't know Mormonism.

[Stecker touched on the language some Republicans have used.]

… [Newt] Gingrich wrote to conservatives in 1984 that language matters. [Gingrich listed words that] should be applied against political opponents and instructed them to memorize as many words as possible, "decay" ... "failure" ... "liberal" ... "traitor" ... "destructive" ... "bizarre." … That sounds like the language Bush was using. … Palin called [President Barack Obama] a false prophet. That is a signal of the end of times. That's where I can read between the lines.

What about Democrats? Are they not using the same rhetoric?

They can't get their act together. They're pathetic. Obama is a very sophisticated theologian. Now, I am not a Republican. I listened to Obama talk about his vision and if that's not his actual belief, than he has an extremely good speech writer. He talked about a forgiving and loving God. …

So are Democrats losing the messaging war in this case?

Obama has adopted some of the tactics of the Republicans by appealing to hope and change.

So sort of the converse?

Yeah, he took a page out of their book and used it against them.

This approach by Republicans, is it working?

The Republican right, which I call the new right, and the religious right hold out a vision of America that is very popular, this myth of American exceptionalism, that God chose America for a specific vision, the light to the world. Interpreted through that lens, it became a religious war. "They hate our freedom. They're haters, cold-blooded killers, and that's exactly how we should treat them." There was no appeal to reason.... The war on terror is not a war on people, it's a war against an ideal.

[Stecker touched on why he wrote the book.]

I wanted to recapture the word "religion" The word "religion" finds its roots in Latin, "lagio." It's the root of the word "ligament".... The word "ligament"' means the tissue that connects one bone to another. Religion means to be bound together. And it's the very thing that's not happening in the political discourse. … We need to pay more attention to the fact that we're bound to each other. … We need to find other things other than tragedy that unite us. —*Jeff Mucciarone*

QoL

DECEMBER 15, 2011 — **QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX**

NH is pretty healthy

We're the second healthiest state in America according to a new ranking by the United Health Foundation and its partner organizations. The study looked at obesity, smoking rates, child poverty, violent crime and other factors. The finish is a mild jump for New Hampshire, which finished third last year. For the whole report, check out www.americashealthrankings.org.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *The number two ranking would feel better if we weren't behind our upside down neighbor, Vermont.*

French-Canadian, yes. But grubby?

Presidential candidate Mitt Romney visited Chez Vachon in Manchester earlier this week on a campaign stop. He's not the first candidate to stop there — the diner has a long tradition of presidential campaign stops. But a writer for the online publication Politico, in reporting on an interview with Romney at the eatery, referred to Chez Vachon as a "grubby French-Canadian diner," though the article did also note the diner as a "storied campaign stop."

QOL score: -1 for dissing a decidedly not-grubby city institution

Comment: *Try the poutine!*

Heads up for license renewal scams

The state Division of Motor Vehicles is warning New Hampshire drivers of a scam involving online license renewals. Websites claiming to be authentic DMV sites are being used to obtain personal and credit card information, according to a DMV press release. The release said there have been a number of reports of people being duped into providing sensitive information to scam websites. People can be tricked into going into a scam website if they do an Internet search for the DMV website. (It's true. QOL tried Googling it.] The way to avoid that is to enter the Web address directly: www.nh.gov/dmv.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *The authentic Web address and a renewal identification number needed for online renewal are contained in the letter drivers receive about six weeks before their license expires, according to the release.*

Nashua student gets perfect SAT score

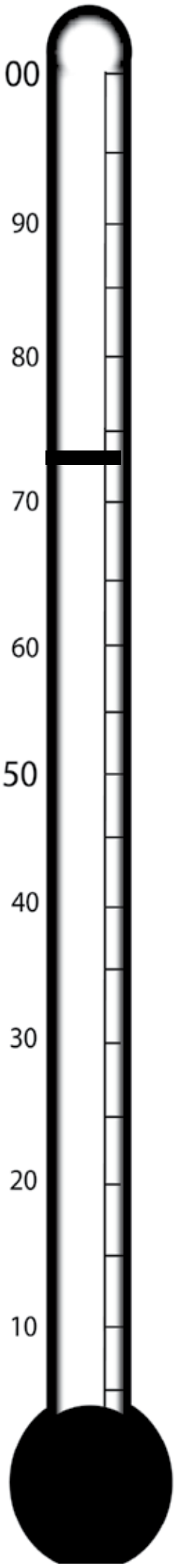
When QOL was a junior in high school, QOL took the SATs. Then took them again. Then took them again. It is doubtful Nisha Devasia of Nashua will ever take them again. She scored a perfect 800 in the math section of the test. Even more impressive is that Devasia is 13 years old and in the seventh grade and she forgot her calculator, according to a report in the Nashua Telegraph.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Congratulations, Nisha! And make room on your desk for the many college brochures that are likely to flood in over the next few years.*

QOL score: 73
Net change: 0
QOL this week: 73

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062835

Presents for friends and foes alike



With Christmas on the horizon, here's my list of presents for some well-known folks in the world of sports.

Ben (sonny and) Cherington: Good luck on the job, a little greater sense of urgency than what we've seen so far and an autographed copy of any **Branch Rickey** biography that reminds all it's better to trade a guy a year too early than a year too late. Like with …

Josh Beckett: A new home, a treadmill and the Idiot's Guide to Blowing Your Potential.

The Red Sox Brass: A tranquilizer dart for when the instinct hits to show its transparent PR side to nail someone needlessly with an off-the-record comment and maybe a better understanding of when and where to practice their considerable skill at the PR game.

Bobby Valentine: A pair of ear plugs to block out what **Theo Epstein** used to call the wind.

Boston Media: A little restraint for next time a crisis arrives that they equate to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the maturity to say "I was wrong" when they were.

Joe Kapp and Angelo Mosca: Couples therapy so the aging CFL septuagenarians can put their differences from that 1963 Grey Cup game behind them, so the next time they meet there won't be another cane-swinging brawl where Kapp plants one square on Angelo's kisser.

Tom Brady: A solid, consistent third wide receiver, an offensive coordinator who calls the run, draws and especially screen passes a little more often and, ah, well, hmm, I guess that's it, because with the life that guy's got going he doesn't need anything else.

Steve Gronkowski: Continued good health, because at the moment that appears to be the only thing that can stop the Gronkanator, who — this is from the "facts that are nice to know but you don't need to know" file — has the longest neck in the NFL since **Billy Truax** hung them up in the '70s.

Tim Tebow: The good fortune to be with an organization that gets how to take advantage of the unique game he possesses by building a team around him to capitalize on that, as **Doug Flutie** did not have, except while he was in the CFL.

John Elway: A copy of his career stats, to just see how similar the numbers in the first year of his Hall of Fame career are to **Tim Tebow**'s in 2011, which are: 48% completion rate, 11 TD passes, 2 interceptions, 1,290 yards, 6.5 yards per attempt, a QB rating of 83.9 and a 7-1 record as a starter. For Elway it was 47% completion rate, 7 TD passes, 14 interceptions, 1,663 yards, 6.4 yards/attempt, QB rating 54.9 and a 4-6 record. It might give a little clarity to see that if Elway could improve on his sickly first-year numbers to become what he was, what's to say Tebow won't improve accordingly from superior numbers at a similar career juncture?

Peyton Manning: Health to play again, as it would be sad seeing it end so abruptly. And besides, while **Barry Bonds** earned the exile that left him short of major RBI and hits milestones at 1,996 and 2,935 respectively when one last season would have got him by 2,000 and 3,000, we don't want Peyton to miss the 400 club by being stuck at 399.

Andrew Luck: The middle name of "Good" as he gets ready to enter the NFL draft as the consensus #1 pick overall.

T.O.: The knowledge to know – it's over big fella, and maybe the humility to see that acting like a diva catches up with you sooner or later.

Rex Ryan: An early seat in the playoffs, a chat with **Joe Namath** to learn how to actually back up guarantees to win the Super Bowl and a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role as a deranged Patriots fan in Manchester Central's **Adam Sandler**'s upcoming film *I Hate You Dad*.

BCS Bowl Organizers: An all-expense-paid trip to spend the week leading to the BCS title game among the folks at Oklahoma State who didn't get a chance to play in that game despite beating more Top 10 teams than Alabama.

The Presidents of the Division I Football Schools: An *It's a Wonderful Life*-type experience to get another perspective on what the utter corruption of big-time college football has wrought in the past year alone at places like USC, Ohio State, Miami and Penn State.

College Football Fans: Since the GOP is doing little while stonewalling everything to get the power back they misused in the eight years before Obama didn't fix the mess that happened on their watch, the folks in Congress actually make use of themselves by initiating a congressional investigation into the anti-trust ramifications of the bogus BCS system that forces the aforementioned presidents to feel enough heat to go to the national championship tournament that all but them seem to want.

Congress: The sense to do that, so their disgraceful single-digit approval rating may inch over the humiliating political version of the Mendozza line of 10 percent.

Voters: Everyone voted out of office and replaced by people with our interests at heart and not theirs and who'll eliminate the partisan gridlock that prevents things from getting done. Hey, what can I tell you, I believe in Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy too.

David Stern: A rest, 'cause with the lock-out, big market-small market owner infighting and the **Chris Paul** mess you've had a rough six months. Although I must say, since you co-opted the U.S. Olympic Basketball team to be the NBA's marketing binky since 1992, I am getting a kick out of you being skewered by the Lebron-D-Wade-Bosh, Carmelo Anthony and Paul messes that grew from playing together on the Olympic team.

Chris Paul: A reading of the old proverb, "Be careful what you wish for."

LeBron James: A looser collar for if he ever gets into NBA championship prime time again.

Dwight Howard: The wisdom to say yes when **Danny** and **Doc** send him a vinyl **45** of the old **Dave Loggins** record "Please Come to Boston."

Danny Ainge: To have an epiphany to ditch this year and start using the $36 million in expiring contracts to start assembling assets now to reshape a team to compete for the next 5 to 8 years rather than going for the one and done they appear headed for as Christmas arrives.

Rajon Rondo: To get beyond the foul shooting issues and for Danny to stop the non-sense of looking to trade his best player.

Jacoby Ellsbury: A ginormous contract from the Sox, 'cause I want to see him stay and play in Boston for a long time to come.

For Me: Getting back to Santa and the Tooth Fairy, for Els to make me his agent — 'cause I'll take the 2 percent on the $150 million or so he'll get.

Enjoy.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long *from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM – The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.*

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Karima Gabriel debuts at MSG

Sports Glossary

Billy Truax: Long-necked tight end for the Rams and later the Cowboys during the '60s and '70s. Came to the Rams in the Roman Gabriel era when the Rams were in L.A., when **Karl Sweetan** was the back-up and head coach George Allen liked rookies as much as the Newtster likes liberals. Best year was 1969 when he had 37 catches and 5 TDs for the 11-3 Rams. After that it was three years in Dallas where he and Mike Ditka alternated to bring the plays in to Roger Staubach when they won the Super Bowl 6. Take away the extreme neck from the 6'5" Truax, and in a back-to-back moment, he and Dustin Pedroia would be on their toes trying to be tallest.

Karl Sweetan: Journeyman QB who spent five seasons with the Lions, Rams and Saints. While he did once throw a 99-yard TD pass, overall it was 17 TD passes and 34 picks making it understandable that he's best remembered for getting in hot water with the FBI after allegedly trying to sell one of his playbooks to another team — though it was never proven.

Old 45 record: Ancient listening device from the days of vinyl that actually was the forerunner to what Steve Jobs wrought with iPad. It let you buy your favorite song without having to buy the whole album, which all changed with the advent of The Beatles. Made it tough on the knees, as you had to get up and flip the record over every four minutes to hear what was on the B-side of the disc. Made its last stand as a consumer product at the infamous Disco Night in Chicago wherein the White Sox eventually had to forfeit the game.

Joe Kapp: Long forgotten NFLer and only man to play in a Super Bowl, CFL Grey Cup game and the Rose Bowl. In the news for dropping ex-CFL star Angelo Mosca with a right to the jaw. After a stellar CFL career he played four seasons in the NFL, where he led the Vikings to their first playoff and Super Bowl appearances and tied an NFL mark by throwing 7 TD passes in one game. His final NFL season was with the Boston Patriots in the 2-12 1970 season when he threw 3 TD passes and 17 picks.

Alumni News: Are you wondering what ever happened to former Trinity star hoopster **Karima (Abdul Jabbar) Gabriel**, who spent the last two years prepping at the Peddie School in New Jersey where she was 2010-11 NJISAA Prep A Player of the Year? This year she's seven games into her freshman season at Depaul, where she just got to play in the world's second most famous arena (behind the V on Elm) when the 21st-ranked DePaul Blue Demons fell to 8th-ranked Tennessee 84-61 at Madison Square Garden. She logged three minutes and went 0-1 from the floor with one rebound. Overall she's gotten into seven games so far for the 8-2 Blue Demons, in which she has 13 rebounds and 6 points in 38 minutes of P. T.

Sports 101: Believe it or not, quarterbacks occupy the first 21 places on the list of most fumbles recovered in an NFL career. Who is number one of all time in fumble recoveries, fumbles recovered by a non-quarterback, and who has fumbled more than any other player ever?

Hired/Fired/Retired: The New Jersey Nets made some local alumni news last week. At least sorta when they signed three-time NBA head coach **PJ Carlisimo** and three-time NBA champ with Houston and San Antonio **Mario Eli** to be their assistant coaches in the coming season. PJ roomed with SNHU AD **Chip Polak** at Fordham and was the Penmen head coach in 1975-76, while Eli used to play here a couple of times a year against Saint Anselm and SNHU when he was playing for AIC.

Quote of the Week: "I think they're just one of the most vicious, most ruthless organizations ever created by mankind. I think you would compare the NCAA to Al Capone and to the Mafia." — Illinois **Rep. Bobby Rush (to judgment)**, during Tuesday's congressional forum on college sports, by way of WEEI.com's Daily Mash-up.

On This Date – Dec. 15: **1925** First hockey game ever played at Madison Square Garden when Montreal beat the New York Americans 3-1. **1933** Baseball owners agree to ban Sunday doubleheaders until after June 15. **1954** Fordham University, where the hallowed **Vince Lombardi** was one of their famous seven blocks, scraps football team for financial reasons. **1967** Future Sox first sacker **Mo Vaughn** is born in Norwalk, Conn. **1972** Two-time Super Bowl winning Patriot **Rodney Harrison** is born. **1974** Oakland A's **Catfish Hunter** is ruled a free agent and signs with the Yankees a week later. **1980 Dave Winfield** becomes highest-paid player in baseball when he signs a 10-year deal worth $15 million dollars. **1982 Bill Parcells** becomes 12th head coach of New York football Giants. **1988 Lori Davis** of Long Island sues **Mike Tyson** for grabbing her buttocks. **1992** Dying of AIDS tennis star and humanitarian **Arthur Ashe** is named Sports Illustrated Sportsman of Year. **2010** Fireballing Indians all-time, all-timer **Bob Feller** dies at 92.

Sports 101 Answer: Rod Woodson has the most fumble recoveries by a non-QB with 32, while Brett Favre has fumbled the most with 166 and Warren Moon has recovered the most with 54 in part because he's second to Favre with 161 fumbles of his own.

The Numbers

3.1 – dollars in millions made annually on average by major league baseball players.

40 – career double doubles for **Megan Howard** after she went for 11 points and 18 rebounds in Wednesday's 60-57 loss to UMass-Lowell.

15 – points by Bow's **Brian Chergy** in a 87-64 loss to UMass-Dartmouth.

17 – points scored by **Sloane Sorrell**, all in the second half as the SNHU Penwomen picked up their sixth win against two losses with a 76-66 win on the road over Stonehill.

26 – points scored by **Bethany Kalliel** to go along with 8 rebounds as she led the Derryfield School to its second straight win over **Nute (gingrich)** 45-37.

33 – turnovers committed by the Daniel Webster women hoopsters in their 77-57 loss to Regis.

165 – second-highest single-season total in school history number of tackles made by UNH linebacker **Matt Evans** as well as second-most in the nation, which was all behind why he was named to the College Sports Madness National FCS Football All-American Team last week.

220 – dollars in millions offered to Cardinals slugger **Albert Pujols** by the team over 10 years.

300 – number of career wins for Saint Anselm hockey coach **Ed Seney** after the Hawks routed SNHU 7-1 on Tuesday when **Kevin Vanous** led the way with a goal and three assists as seven different players potted a goal.



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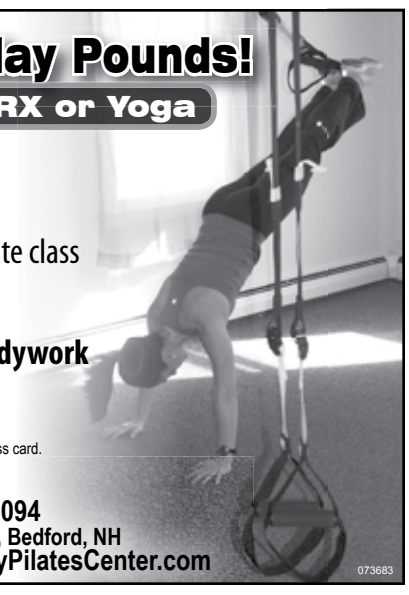
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NH GOT GAME

How the state's prep schools are creating the next generation of basketball stars



Photo above and on the cover is by Gil Talbot (giltalbot.com) and is of the TIlton School home game versus Worcester Academy on Wednesday, Dec. 7 (Tilton won 77 to 62, according to the school's website.)

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Basketball, like jazz, is a distinctly American invention. Sprung from the mind of Dr. James Naismith in 1891, the game is now exported around the world. Yet along the way certain places have come to symbolize basketball's evolution: Springfield, Mass., New York City's Rucker Park, Hickory, Indiana, Chicago's South Side, the University of Michigan circa 1991, and, of course, New Hampshire's Lakes Region.

This last entry is not a typo. Each year, scores of the nation's most talented and highly regarded high school basketball players enroll to study amid the rolling hills and stone buildings of New Hampshire's famous prep schools. More specifically, three schools — Brewster Academy, Tilton School and New Hampton School — have become the epicenter of high school basketball in America.

This is not hyperbole. In its 2011-2012 Five Star Basketball preseason Top 25, Sports Illustrated magazine ranked Wolfeboro's Brewster Academy number 1, Tilton School number 3 and New Hampton School number 8, beating out schools in Las Vegas, Chicago and Texas. When Tilton plays Brewster in January, the game will be televised on ESPN. Brewster's Mitch McGary will play his college basketball next year at the University of Michigan. He is being called the school's biggest recruit in a decade.

And yet no one seems to notice. At many games college recruiters outnumber fans. Part of this is by design. The other part is due to a confluence of circumstances that makes the situation possible while simultaneously ensuring it is never popular.

In the beginning...

These schools play in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC), which "consists of four District organizations, each of which operates with some autonomy in guiding the development of policies and procedures related to athletic competition within the District," according to the league's website, nepsac.org. Last year, according to Jason Smith, head coach at Brewster, 80 kids in the NEPSAC signed with Division I college basketball programs, which is the highest level of college basketball.

"The NEPSAC is the most competitive prep school league in the country," said Jeremy Leveille, who covers New Hampshire high school sports for NH Notebook, nhnotebook.com. "If you can play in the NEPSAC, you can play anywhere.

"Kids come from all over the country," Leveille continued. "In fact, most of the talent is from outside of New Hampshire."

The roster of New Hampton's basketball team includes players from California, Kansas, Massachusetts, Delaware, Utah, Virginia and Canada and Mike Auger, the lone representative of the Granite State.

"They're essentially all-star teams," Leveille said.

Most men's programs at these schools have a Varsity A team and a Varsity B team (sometimes called JVA), according to Tyler York, who previously worked as an athletic trainer at New Hampton School. The Varsity A team consists of high-level recruits, while the Varsity B team is more like your traditional high school basketball team. This ensures every kid, even ones who aren't college basketball prospects, a chance to play high school hoops. Varsity B teams have always existed. What is a relatively new phenomenon is the explosion of talent on these Varsity A squads.

No one seems to know exactly how this all got started, but Leo Papile has a theory. As the head coach of the Boston Amateur Basketball Club (BABC) since the late 1970s, Papile is an almost mythical figure within high school basketball. He's coached such NBA stars as Patrick Ewing, won numerous AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) national championships and was once employed by the Boston Celtics.

"We sort of pioneered the whole thing in 1983 when we sent Eugene Miles, a great player from Dorchester, up to New Hampton," Papile said. Miles went on to star at Cleveland State University.

A player like Miles was typical of the early years of the prep school migration. A talented player would spend his career at his local high school and then go off to a prep school for a post-graduate year. Most times this was because the player needed additional academic help.

When handing out a scholarship for more than $40,000 a year, colleges want to make sure the kid they are recruiting will succeed. While that obviously means success on the court, it also means making grades in the classroom. Prep schools, because of their smaller classes (most prep schools have total enrollments around 200 to 300 kids) and ability to give one-on-one attention, have long been places of redemption for academic underachievers, according to Jason Hickman, national basketball writer and editor for Maxpreps.com, an affiliate of CBSSports.com that covers high school sports.

"It is a tremendous avenue for kids," Hickman said. "They can get away from home and hone their skills in the classroom and on the court."

In fact, one of the reasons these schools don't do more self-promotion in terms of their basketball teams is that they already have outstanding reputations as academic institutions and they don't want to over-shadow that, according to Will McCulloch, director of communications at New Hampton School.

But over time word got out that these youngsters were thriving both academically and athletically. Suddenly everyone, not just kids who needed help in the classroom, wanted to be part of the action. A talent surplus was born.

Why they come

A player like Mitch McGary is going to be noticed no matter where he plays. But for every McGary, there are six or seven borderline Division I prospects. These are the ones who benefit most from the prep school experience.

One of the major enticements of playing for a prep school (including other New Hampshire prep schools such as Kimball Union Academy, Phillips Exeter Academy or Proctor Academy) is that a player is able to reclassify, according to Leveille. This means someone who plays his freshman and sophomore years at a public high school and then transfers to a prep school can repeat his sophomore year. While conventional wisdom says kids don't want to repeat a grade, the opposite is true in basketball.

"It happens all the time where a kid repeats the year he just did or does a post-graduate year," Leveille said. "This allows you to compete against kids a year younger than you but also lets you mature physically. It also gives colleges an extra year to recruit you."

To get a coveted college scholarship, a player has to be seen. And visibility is much greater at these prep schools. Leveille said at a championship New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) game there may be recruiters from schools like Colby-Sawyer, Plymouth State and Daniel Webster College, teams that play a Division III schedule. While Leveille said Division III basketball is nothing to sneeze at, there are simply more recruiters at NEPSAC games.

College recruiters are attracted to players from these programs because those schools mimic the college experience.

"They've already been away from home and been in a structured environment with everything from study halls to mandatory weightlifting programs," Smith said.

For college recruiters, like Xavier University assistant coach Travis Steele, prep schools are fertile ground for players who can make the transition to the next level. Two players from Brewster Academy, Semaj Christon and Jalen Reynolds, will be joining Steele and head coach Chris Mack at Xavier next year.

"For all of these guys the transition will be easier because they're essentially playing against Division I talent every day," Steele said. "At a traditional high school, a guy might be 6'9" but the next tallest guys he's going up against is 6'2". At these schools you're practicing against equal talent every day and definitely getting that competition in games."

Case in point: there are six players on New Hampton's team who are 6'7" or taller. In the past, there may have been an incredibly talented basketball player in a small Ohioan town. Unfortunately, he might go all season and compete against one player as talented as him. Yet when Tilton plays Brewster all of the players have Division I talent.

"This raises the level of these players," Leveille said.

That competition is intense and not everyone can handle the pressure. Hickman said even that is functional.

"It is part of the natural weeding out process," Hickman said. "Some kids rest on their laurels. Others are good but not great. Not everyone is meant to be a star."

Steele said the constant challenge against such talent is an instant reality check for players. Everyone at the Division I college level has talent. Talent isn't enough. Hard work both on and off the court is needed for success and Steele said prep schools prepare kids for that.

Steele also said he is looking for kids who are willing to work and aren't afraid of a challenge. He said competing against the best at a prep school shows him a kid isn't afraid.

Why it works

At major universities basketball games draw sold-out crowds in the tens of thousands and are major money-makers. But prep schools' tiny gyms allow for maybe a few hundred fans and the games are free anyway. How then does a prep school benefit from having an exceptional basketball program?

"At Tilton we like to excel at everything we do," said Tilton's head coach Marcus O'Neil.

O'Neil said every program, whether it's the science department or choir, strives for excellence. The basketball team is no different. This desire to excel attracts players to the school. They are able to stay because of the community nature of prep schools and the fact that sports teams aren't isolated from the rest of the school — students and athletes blend. In fact, it is often mandatory for a student to play a team sport, which bridges the gap as everyone, regardless of talent level, is a student-athlete. Kids who may have only played basketball at their former schools find themselves exposed to new opportunities, according to Tara Brisson, head coach of Tilton's women's basketball team. Some may play guitar while the star football player is also in the school play.

"We have such a diverse student body that nothing is quote-unquote uncool," Brisson said. "The kids can be who they want to be."

The transition is made easier because at prep schools everyone, not just athletes, is typically coming from somewhere else. Sure, it might be difficult for an inner-city kid to adapt to life in Tilton. But that adaption is no more difficult than the adjustment of one of the Chinese or Korean students who is also learning a new language, according to O'Neil.

This melting pot of national and international students is one of the reasons basketball players are able to fit in so easily. It is also the reason there are few fans at the games. At a local high school, people come to cheer the kids they've known for years. At these schools, most of the players are from elsewhere, so local residents do not know them.

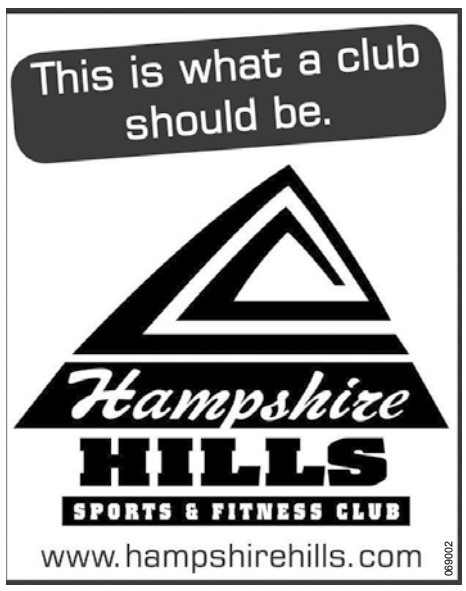
Technology has helped basketball players know more about these schools. Smith said Facebook and other social media have played a major role in making rural areas like Wolfeboro and New Hampton less remote.

Another benefit for the players at a prep school is that they live on campus and so they have access to basketball courts, weight training and healthy dining all the time. At New Hampton, for example, players can be found in the









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gym during the spring and fall, as well as doing individual workouts and strength and conditioning. In the winter, as at most high schools, they typically practice two hours a day.

Fitting in

In any school that has a national spotlight on its sports stars, there is the potential for resentment from the other students who may say that so-and-so could never have gotten into the school if he didn't play basketball. While this may be true in some places, Peter Hutchins, head coach at New Hampton, said there is nothing of the kind at New Hampton.

"Maybe if they were treated differently this might happen," Hutchins said. "But everyone at New Hampton is held to the same standards. There are no special privileges."

Hutchins was validated by York, who also a taught a class on sustainability at the school.

"One hundred percent athletes are treated like students," York said. "These schools pride themselves on education."

Yet most students who come are repeating a school year. While reclassifying helps the player on the court, does it stunt his learning? Repeating a year might be beneficial as far as muscle growth and dribbling skills, but what does it do as far as intellectual stimulation? The answer, according to Hutchins, is a lot. To begin with, he said, schools like New Hampton offer such a diversity of courses that although a student may be repeating a grade, he wouldn't be repeating a class. Students can also partake in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which is a two-year program meant to prepare students for an interconnected, globalized world.

This combination must be working, as New Hampton currently has three graduates playing in the Ivy League, according to McCulloch, the school's director of communication. Pat Saunders of Gilford is a senior at Princeton, Mike Howlett is at Penn, and Jon Daniels at Columbia.

The women's game

While there is great emphasis on the men's game, more and more women are being recruited by and leaving for prep schools. Third-year coach Tara Brisson is working hard to establish a program at Tilton School. She is currently drawing talent from a more localized pool, as several players are from New Hampshire and many more are from Massachusetts. Her style is paying off. In her first season, the team won 19 games, and most recently they made the finals of the NEPAC Class 3 tournament. This year's team will have five players playing basketball in college, three on scholarships, including captain Kaley Marston of Bow, who will play at Brandeis University next year.

"Coming here was the best decision of my life," said Marston, who left Bow High School after her freshman year for Bishop Brady High School before landing in Tilton. "The environment is awesome. And at prep school, sports aren't as political. You play because you're good. Not because your dad's the coach."

Marston speaks with maturity. She understands basketball is a means to an end but it is also one she loves. She doesn't feel like she's sacrificed anything during her tour from school to school — instead she's gained the world. She said she has been able to stay in contact with her childhood friends while forging special bonds with her Tilton teammates.

It is a bond shared by Brisson, who said she acts as a parent for the kids who are away from home. For her part, Brisson wanted to be a head coach, which is why she turned down a lucrative offer to be the first assistant at the University of Maine and instead took the helm at Tilton. She said high school students are like sponges, absorbing her teaching on basketball and on how to be a good person. She is not alone in this feeling.

"I like the round-the-clock responsibility," O'Neil said. "I'm more than just a basketball coach."

Being more than a coach helps alleviate some of the pressure felt by college coaches whose careers and livelihoods are defined by wins and losses. Even though O'Neil knows Brewster and New Hampton are going to be competitive each year he doesn't feel like he has to be champion to keep his job. In fact, he wants those schools to be great. He said everyone who coaches in the New England Class 3 has a certain level of competitiveness. He said it wouldn't be fun to roll over opponents.

How they get there

Yet teams still want to win. To do that they must recruit the best players. Success breeds future success. Coach Smith said this season he received more than 500 inquiries from players interested in playing ball at Brewster. Coaches like Smith are in advantageous position. They have the best of the best knocking on their door. But Smith said he recruits people who will succeed at Brewster, not just the best basketball players. He said he recruits

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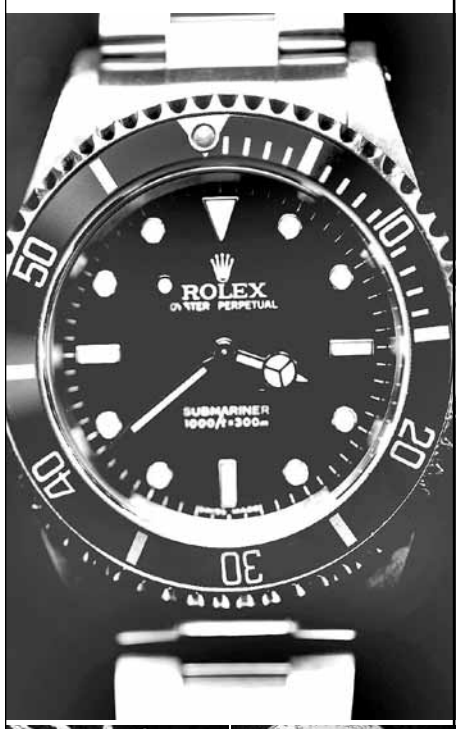
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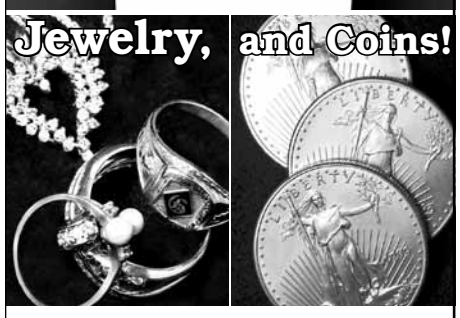
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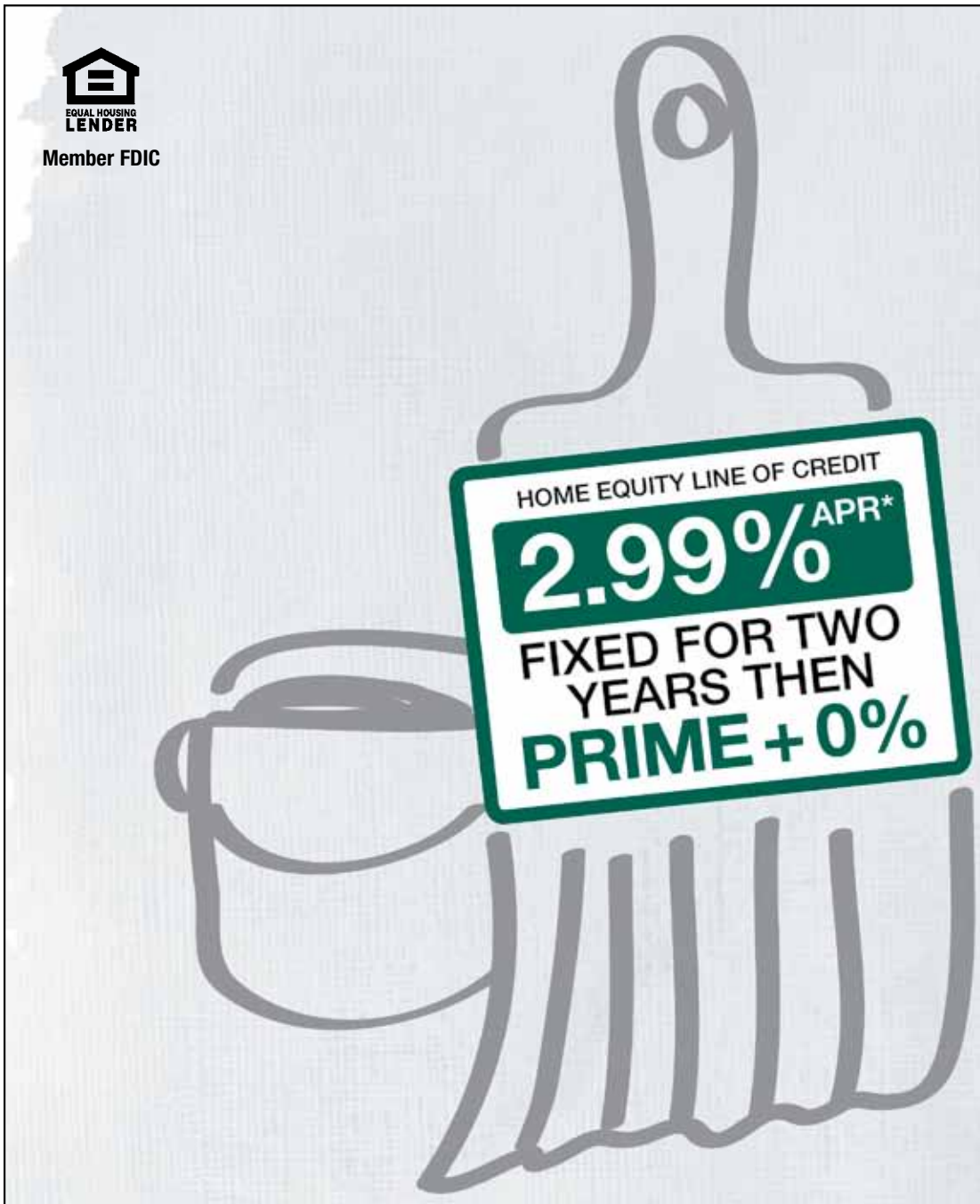


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Kaley Marston will play at Brandeis University next year. Courtesy photo.

character first and foremost. He said each incoming player must present three recommendations from teachers. He is looking for motivation and citizenship.

"There is no magic wand," Smith said. "To succeed a kid needs academics, character and maturity."

While character is important, size is still king and is the first thing you notice when you walk into the gym, according to Hickman. From there it gets tougher and what coaches want and need varies.

O'Neil said recruiting happens on a multi-tiered track. He said inquiries come from students and coaches and that he actively recruits. O'Neil said his focus is more regionally based. He is active in the hotbed of Boston hoops. Several of O'Neil's players also play for Papile's team in Boston during the summer.

"There's some regional pride there," O'Neil said.

While schools like New Hampton, Tilton and Brewster have national reputations, which talented players they score still has a lot to do with word of mouth. Much of this comes from former players who move on to big-time college programs and spread the gospel of their former prep school. Thus was the case with Brady Morningstar. Morningstar came from Lawrence, Kan., to New Hampton during the 2005-2006 season. Morningstar went on to win a national championship as a member of the University of Kansas Jayhawks. One of the assistant coaches of the Jayhawks is Danny Manning, a former NBA all-star and one of the single greatest college basketball players of all time. Manning's son, Evan, is now playing at New Hampton.

While post-graduate players are nice, Hutchins is making an effort to recruit younger players so that he can have more time to mold them both on and off the court. The added years also give continuity to the program, reducing the need to re-teach the offense and defense each year to an endless carousel of talented post-grads. This means, however, that the players Hutchins is recruiting are incredibly young, yet he said it wasn't difficult to identify talent even in these youngest of youngsters. The challenge arises, according to Hutchins, when they play a team filled with post-graduates who are stronger both physically and emotionally.

This youthful migration doesn't seem to be a fad, either. Of the top 100 high school players in the country, Smith said 45 percent go to prep schools or independent day schools.

Since these teams are essentially all-star teams, does the issue of playing time ever come up? The ninth man on New Hampton's team could probably start for every NHIAA team, so does that player ever complain about minutes? Hutchins said he neutralizes this by being as honest as possible during recruiting.

"I'm honest with the kids," Hutchins said. "I tell them playing time is earned through hard work."

Prep school coaches are not easily impressed by national accolades. They are not apt to indulge the egos of these blossoming stars.

"The first few months is about humbling them," Smith said. "I remind them they're probably not as good as they think they are.

"I get a lot of calls from kids saying they're the 12th-ranked eighth-grader in the country," Smith continued. "I tell them that plus 75 cents will buy you a cup of coffee."

The reason is that no matter how talented these players are, there is still a long way from that initial talent to later success. There are innumerable hurdles on the journey to becoming a professional basketball player. In fact, even at Brewster the idea is still more a dream than a guarantee. Smith, who is in his 12th year with the program, said during the first seven years he had 60 to 65 kids go off to Division I schools. Yet only two have made the NBA and they were end-of-the-bench players.

Changing culture

With still such a small chance of making it to the big time, is all the effort — leaving behind your family, playing basketball 24/7 — worth it? Has basketball become a career for some of these kids?

Gone are the days of kids' playing a different sport each season. More and more specialize in one sport at a young age, hop-

Top Players to watch

Class of 2012
Mitch McGary, Brewster
T.J. Warren, Brewster
Kaleb Tarczewski, St. Mark's School (Mass.) from Claremont
Kaley Marston, Tilton
Daisy Jordan, Tilton
Madeline Blais, New Hampton
Lizzy Ball, New Hampton

Class of 2013
Nerlens Noel, Tilton
Goodluck Okonoboh, Tilton

Class of 2014
Wayne Selden, Tilton
Noah Vonleh, New Hampton



Coach Peter Hutchins talks strategy with his team. Courtesy photo.

ing to wring every ounce of benefit out of the sport. This isn't exclusive to basketball. Many prep schools have formidable hockey and football programs as well. Yet Brewster's Smith still encourages kids to play multiple sports, because the different movements train different muscles. And Papile said when he was growing up, in a previous era, he still played basketball every day.

More important than just the players' focus on basketball is the culture's focus on the players. Basketball is a multi-billion-dollar industry. In the 10 years he has covered high school sports for Maxpreps.com, Hickman said, media attention and awareness has exploded tenfold.

Shoe companies, like Nike and Adidas, spend big money to make sure the best players wear their logos. There are countless websites like Hickman's own Maxpreps.com, as well as espn.com, rivals.com, New England Basketball Recruiting Report, etc., that focus entirely on high school athletes. Leveille said he has heard of sites that analyze middle schoolers. He's heard of a seventh-grader reclassifying and that one former prep school star had reclassified so many times he was a 20-year-old playing against 15-year-olds.

There is also the question of whether these kids are becoming better basketball players. It is undeniable they are better athletes. But basketball is a game of skills honed through constant practice. Today's players play more than 20 games with their high school teams, then an additional 60 games or so with their AAU or club teams. Tilton will play in tournaments in Illinois, Florida, West Virginia, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. All of those games and all of that travel leaves less time for shooting jumpers.

"It's a hot topic out there," Hickman said, "that by traveling and playing so many games instead of practicing kids are losing the fundamentals. There's a lot of smart people looking into this."

Yet with all of the travel and the constant practice, the kids who are on the team, regardless of where their home town is, are able to form a strong and lasting bond, a bond many wouldn't trade for the world, according to Leveille.

And while it may be controversial for young basketball prospects to be shipped away from home to work on their craft, it is not uncommon throughout the rest of the world. In fact, in this respect America is playing catch up, according to Hickman. It is common in Europe for a 14- or 15-year-old tennis, golf or soccer prodigy to enter an academy where school is secondary to sport. At least our prep schools are, as described by Papile, "legitimate academic institutions."

Worth it

For many all of these life changes are worth it. With the cost of tuition (out-of-state tuition for McGary's University of Michigan is $37,265, according to U.S. News and World Report), rising in no correlation with people's incomes, why wouldn't a student and his or her parents do whatever possible to get a college scholarship?

That being said, prep schools aren't cheap either. In fact, according to boardingschoolreview.com, the average yearly tuition at a boarding school is $42,500. Now most students, and especially most players recruited for basketball, aren't paying that fee. Smith said Brewster gives no athletic or merit-based scholarships. However, it does offer financial aid on a need basis, which he said was standard amongst New Hampshire prep schools.

"No one on our team gets 100 percent financial aid," Smith said. "Everyone is making some commitment to be here."

Brisson said basketball often appeals to poorer kids because it has low overhead.

"All you need is a ball and a pair of sneakers," Brisson said, as opposed to the limitless gear in football, hockey and baseball.

As a result, more of these kids may need financial aid. But for many kids who may be at risk, leaving a negative home situation behind for the idyllic life of prep school can literally be a life-saver, according to Papile. He said matching a kid to a school has little to do with basketball. It is finding an academic and financial fit. He said some families are ready to write a check for $40,000 while others can only do $400.

Not for everyone

Of course prep school isn't for everyone.

Top locals to watch

Richard O'Brien, Brewster, from Bedford
Mike Auger, Tilton, from Hopkinton
Alex Cohen, Tilton, from Nashua
Savanna Butterfield, Tilton, from Londonderry
Samantha Hillis, Brewster, from Alton
Megan Hardiman, Brewster, from Loudon
Brianna Neely, Brewster, from New Durham
Sam Brenner, New Hampton, from Nashua
Shayla Hubbard, New Hampton, from Laconia
Katherine McMahon, New Hampton, from New Hampton

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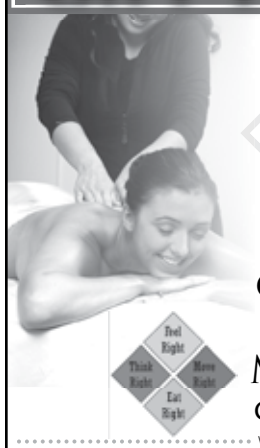


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Madeline Blais of Exeter. Courtesy photo.

Merrimack High School's Dimitri Floras was a first team all-state player as a sophomore, according to nhnotebook.com. Perhaps for many of the reasons previously mentioned, Floras transferred to Kimball Union Academy in Plainfield. After only a few months there, he returned to Merrimack.

"There are a lot of reasons a player might not like prep school," Leveille said. "Many are in the boonies of New Hampshire and western Mass. The kid might not like living away from home so young. He might not like the coach. Or maybe he was a star at his local high school and now isn't getting any playing time."

Tilton's Brisson said she has had kids come who love Tilton but aren't ready to make the needed commitment to basketball. In these cases, the girls may play JV basketball, which is less intense, instead. But she said since women's basketball is on the rise, more want to come and to play.

If all of these players are going to prep schools it means they are leaving somewhere else. As a result public leagues, like the NHIAA, are suffering. Especially since this trend is for younger and younger players. For years, according to Leveille, kids played their four years at their public high school and then went to a prep school for a postgraduate year. Now they're leaving earlier.

There was a time in New Hampshire when the top talent played for their hometown school. Some, like Concord's Matt Bonner, went onto play Division I basketball and even found their way to the NBA. But now stars like Kaleb Tarczewski of Claremont are moving on to prep schools. Tarczewski plays at St. Mark's School in Massachusetts.

As he's traveled the country for Maxpreps.com, Hickman has talked with public high schools about this trend. He said some were bitter about losing their top talents. But he said the ones with the best interest of the kids at heart are open to the way things are going because it can really put the kid in the right situation. The reason: it works.

Influence

Many of these players attend prep school to get a chance at a Division I scholarship. But when the time comes, and they are lucky enough to have several options, their coach must play a critical role in helping them make their decision. But for O'Neil there is no more pressure in these decisions than with any other student at Tilton who is participating in the competitive admissions process. At prep schools, coaches have other jobs as well. O'Neil, who holds a master's degree in social work, is the associate director of college counseling. In this position he gets pressure from all types of parents who want their kids to get into the best school possible.

O'Neil said he works with the families on this big decision and often reminds them that the best fit — the school the student will be happiest at — isn't always the most prestigious.

These prep schools just happen to be prestigious. But when the whistle blows and the game is on, none of that matters. In New Hampton's recent victory over the Winchendon School there was a burst of brilliant basketball in the second half that altered the outcome of the game. The run was spearheaded by sophomore guard Jared Terrell.

When Terrell hit a pivotal three-pointer he turned to the crowd, made up almost entirely of his classmates, and flashed a grin from ear to ear. In that instant it didn't matter what his hometown was or what his ranking was on espn.com or what colleges were recruiting him. In that moment, he was just a kid doing what he loves.

See them play

Seasons run through early March. Here are a few upcoming games:

New Hampton vs. Vanier Prep on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. at New Hampton School

Brewster vs. New Hampton School on Friday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. at Brewster Academy

Tilton vs. Proctor Academy on Friday, Jan. 6, at 4:30 p.m. at Tilton School

Titon vs. Cushing Academy on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 4:30 p.m. at Tilton School

New Hampton vs. St. Thomas More on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m. at New Hampton School

Brewster vs. Maine Central Institute on Friday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at Brewster Academy





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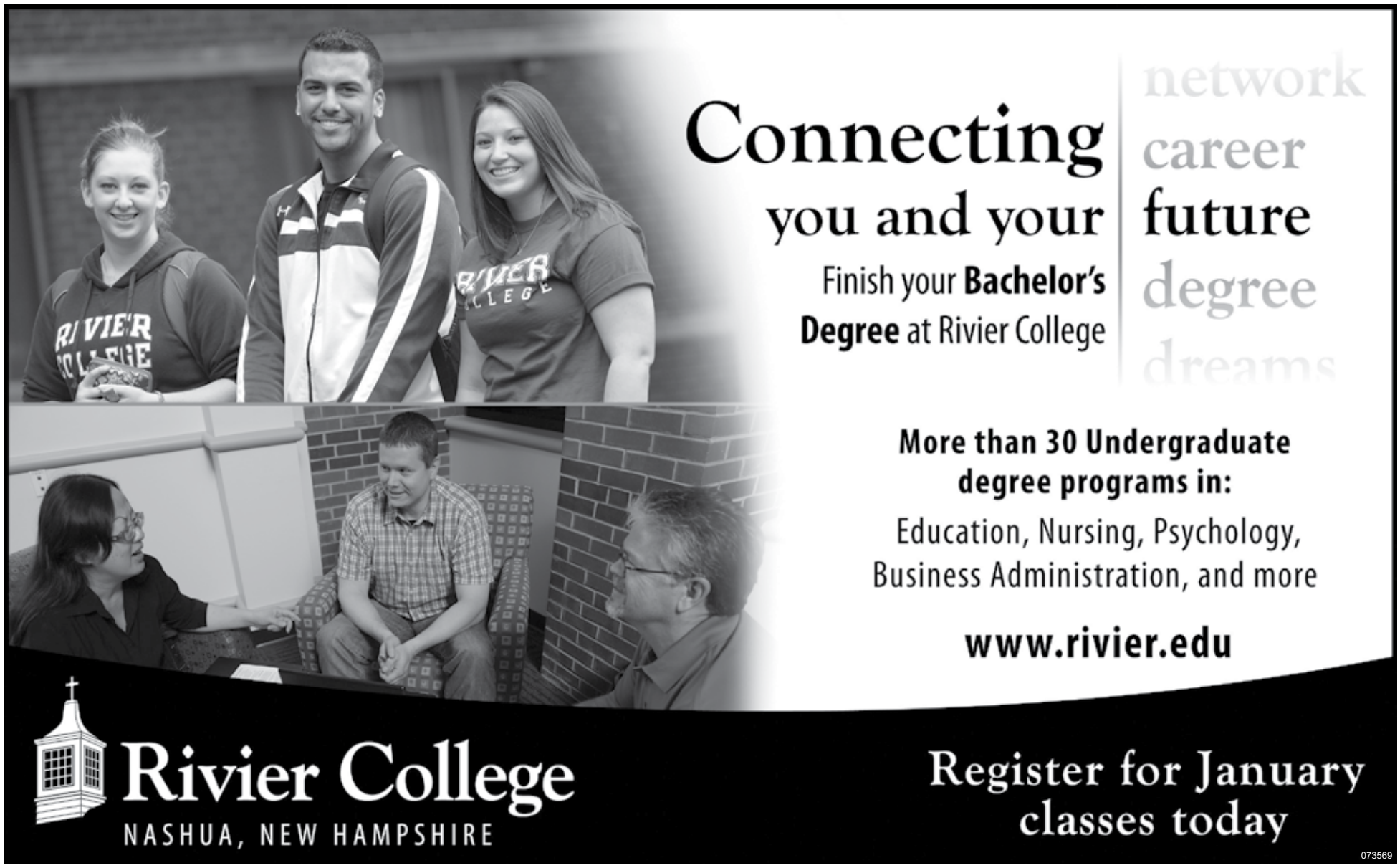
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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 15 - 21, 2011, AND BEYOND



Monday, Dec. 19

Show off your baking skills and get some new ideas at the Old Fashioned Cookie Swap at Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St. in Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, today from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring 24 homemade cookies to share (and copies of the recipe) and leave with a couple dozen cookies from others as well as the recipes to recreate them yourself. The event is free.



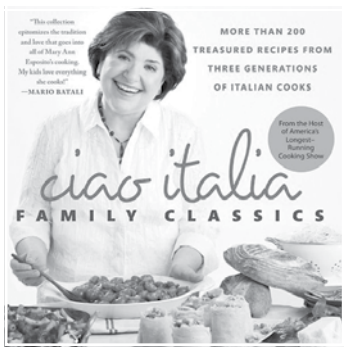
Thursday, Dec. 15

Cooking is on the minds of many these days and those with specific dietary needs can get some tips from Gail Piazza, who recently released the cookbook *Recipes for Repair* with her daughter Laura Piazza, who was diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2009. The recipes are vegetarian and gluten-, dairy- and egg-free, according to a press release. Laura Piazza will be at Toadstool Bookshop at Lorden Plaza in Milford today from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to sign the book, discuss the process of creating the book and offer samples of some of the dishes.



Friday, Dec. 16.

The Nashua Symphony is bringing the brass for the Brass Flourish Concert tonight at 8 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 777 W. Hollis St. in Nashua. The show will feature the Nashua Symphony Brass, the Nashua Symphony Chorus and the Nashua Choral Ensemble performing carols, Christmas hits and a sing-along. Tickets cost $27 ($22 for seniors and $12 for students). Call 595-9156 or see www.nashuasymphony.org.



Saturday, Dec. 17

Get more cooking ideas from Mary Ann Esposito, the host of PBS' *Ciao Italia*, whose latest book is *Ciao Italia Family Classics: More Than 200 Treasured Recipes from Three Generations of Italian Cooks*. She will be at the Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St. in Exeter, today from noon to 2 p.m. for a signing. See www.waterstreetbooks.com.



Monday, Dec. 19

Pro-labor film fans unite! The Canadian Labour International Film Festival will present a collection of films — "A Film Festival about Work and the People Who Do It" — today from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Manchester Public Library, 405 Pine St. in Manchester. Admission is free. Films include *Breathtaking* (about the asbestos industry), *Locked Out* (about unionized borax miners) and *Triangle: Remembering the Fire* (an HBO documentary about the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire). The event is free.

Free: Sounds of the season

Enjoy some caroling without having to stand in the cold. The Manchester Choral Society will carol through the galleries of the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, www.currier.org, 669-6144, Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m. (Come between 10 a.m. and noon and adults can get into the museum for free. Otherwise, adult admission costs $10; children 17 and under always get in free.)

Cheap: A holiday party for a cause

The Mill Fudge Factory, 2 Central St. in Bristol, 744-0405, will hold a holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. featuring the Uncle Steven Band. Admission costs $7 or bring a donation of food or clothes for Bristol Community Services. In addition to the music, get a free scoop of ice cream with a purchase of sandwich or salad and a free surprise gift.

Splurge: Some music in the new year

The Celtic Woman are coming to the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester on Friday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (which costs $43.50 and $59) will go on sale Friday, Dec. 16, at noon. The tour is in support of *Believe*, the group's recent release. See www.celticwoman.com for more on the group. See www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000 to purchase tickets.

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Give the gift of art

Local studios offer creative touch

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

This holiday season, Art 3 Gallery is offering a win-win. Visitors can check names off their shopping lists and get their names added to Santa's list of good boys and girls because they helped charity.

Until Dec. 23, Art 3 Gallery, 44 West Brook St., Manchester, will donate 50 percent of proceeds from sales of eight exclusive posters to the New Hampshire Food Bank. The posters are prints of works created by local artists, commissioned by the gallery. They cost $30. Of the eight, two are scenes of Manchester, three are of Portsmouth and two of Boston.

Goodwin said the posters are not framed, which will help with giving them as a gift, but that Art 3 Gallery could help frame them if desired.

"They are nice pieces," said Jaye Goodwin of Art 3 Gallery, "that are warm and inviting. They'd be perfect for a first apartment or a transplant that wants to be reminded of New England. Oh, a college student too."

Goodwin said through the year Art 3 Gallery has seen the needs of the New Hampshire Food Bank grow, which is why during an earlier Trolley Night the gallery held a food drive. She said students from the New Hampshire Institute of Art showed up with backpacks full of food. The New Hampshire Food Bank was once Art 3's neighbor and so Goodwin said they always want to support its efforts.

Of course Art 3 Gallery doesn't need to be the only stop on your holiday shopping express. The Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, has plenty of gifts under $20. For example, how many times have you been preparing a meal in your kitchen when suddenly you decided to break into song? Bet you looked pretty silly. But not anymore! For $13.50 you can purchase a pair of sing-along tongs, which are microphone-shaped stainless steel tongs for grilling and other cooking endeavors.

"They're great," said Stacy Broulidakis, assistant manager of the museum shop at the Currier. "I wish I had thought of them."

Broulidakis said the Currier often brings in merchandise that is related to a particular exhibition at the museum. Most recently visitors have enjoyed rock & roll photography in the "Backstage Pass" exhibit. This is why there are currently so many musical gifts for sale at the Currier, such as guitar pick toothpicks ($6.50) for the rocker who respects good dental hygiene, and the amp'd up mug ($15.50), which looks like a music amp but is a mug, perfect for coffee or coffee and Jack Daniels depending on which year of Keith Richards' life you're imitating.

"It's been a lot of fun," Broulidakis said. "We actually switch out a lot of our merchandise during the year, so there is always something new. Of course we have our staples as well." These are gifts more traditionally related to art, like art supplies, art kits for kids and books about artists. The Currier also has Lucy Lu Accessories on sale — choose a card case (for all those business folks out there) or a compact mirror (for when you want to look your best). Both are covered in little works of art and embossed in a smooth glass-like finish. This gift, which costs $18, also comes with a silver leatherette pouch.

"It is stuff you won't find anywhere else," Broulidakis said. She reminds visitors that you don't need to pay the museum admission to check out the museum shop.



Fifty percent of sales at Art 3 Gallery go to the NH Food Bank. Courtesy photo.

Plenty of theaters, like the New Hampshire Theatre Project (nhtheatreproject.org) in Portsmouth, are also offering gift certificates to shows and acting classes, which can be a great gift this time of year. You never know what fire of imagination the spark of theater can ignite in a young person's mind.

22 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

24 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

27 Classical
Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **HOLIDAY FINE ART** will be held through Dec. 30 at the NH Art Association, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER HOLIDAY MARKET** will be held Thursdays, Dec. 15, and Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Dec. 15, in the Brady Sullivan Plaza Mall, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285.

• **ARTISAN TRUNK SHOW** will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Sharon Arts Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New England Language Center, 16 Hillside Dr., Rochester. Call 332-2255 or e-mail marina@anylanguage.org.

• **THE SOPHA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY** will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, 7-10 p.m. at The Studio of Photographic Arts, 15 Merrill St., Manchester. Call 584-1492.

• **WINTER LIGHTS IV ART EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 1 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit loadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

Gallery openings

• **DONNA GERTLER** will be the artist of the month for December and January at the Re/Max Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. There will be an opening reception on Thurs., Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m. E-mail Pat at PHurd1503@aol.com.

• **FOCUS TOUR:** Celebrating Winter-A Ramble through Snowy Scapes will be held on Fri., Dec. 16, at 2:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m. at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission. Visit currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS** Artist reception will be held on Sun., Dec. 18, 3-6 p.m. at 263 Art Gallery, 263 Main St., Nashua. Call 321-0233.

• **HOLIDAY PARTY** will be held on Fri., Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. at 119 Gallery, 119 Chelmsford St., Lowell, Mass. Visit 119gallery.org.

• **RALPH STONE JACOBS** Work will be on display Dec. 20 through Jan. 13 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com.

In the galleries

• **ABOUT FACE:** New Paintings by Kendra O'Donnell will be on display through April 27 at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery at Sulloway & Hollis, 29 School St., Concord. Call 225-2515.

• **ANITA PERRY** work is on display through December at the UNH Graduate School Manchester Campus, 4th floor, 286 Commercial St., Manchester. Call 641-4313 or visit gradschool.unh.edu/manchester.

• **ART FROM THE HARBOR GALLERY** will be held through December at the UNH School of Law, Two White St., Concord. Galler hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **ARTFUL GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAY** will be held through Dec. 24 at the Millbrook Gallery & Sculpture Gardens, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **BOB GRUEN** Rock & Roll photography will be on display through February at Wyatt Art Studios, 87 North Main St., Rochester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays, noon-7 p.m. Visit wyattartstudios.com or call 207-200-1925.

• **BACKSTAGE PASS:** Rock & Roll Photography. Exhibit will be on display through Jan. 15 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **CLOSE TO HOME** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 31 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com.

• **COLLAGE** Multi-artist exhibition on display through Jan. 7 at the Sharon Arts Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **DAVID McPHAIL:** Looking Back... and Beyond will be on display through December at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission to view gallery only. Call 742-2002 or visit childrens-museum.org.

• **DRU CHICHESTER** work will be on display through December at the Rosewood Mall Art Gallery, 150 Lafayette Road, Rye. Hours are daily, 8:30-10 p.m. Call 964-9700.

• **EARLY WINTER '11 EXHIBITION AT 100 MARKET** Multi-artist exhibition will be held through Jan. 13 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2818.

• **FACES OF NASHUA** Photographic essays will be on display through Dec. 31 at the Nelson Building, 100 Main St., Nashua. E-mail mark@studiomarkemile.com.

• **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL TOWN EMPLOYEES' EXHIBITION** will be held through December at the Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-2 p.m. Call 924-8040.

• **FOCUS ON NATURE** Work of Elizabeth D'Amico and Jessie Pollock will be on display through Dec. 19 at the Lyceum Gallery at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FULL CIRCLE:** Dahlov Ipcar's Circle Paintings, with a Round of Marguerite and William Zorach and Selected Works from the Boston Sculptors Gallery will be on display through September at the Paul Creative Arts Center at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Gallery hours are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **GAIL SMUDA:** A Retrospective will be held through Dec. 16 at the McIninch Art Gallery, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursday, 5-8 p.m. Visit snhu.edu/art or call 629-4622.

• **HOLIDAY MINIATURES EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 13 at the Sharon Arts Downtown Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **ICONS OF HISTORY:** Objects that Define New Hampshire. Objects will be on display through Dec. 31 at the New Hampshire Historical Society's museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **KIMBERLY PECK** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Gallery open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499 or visit nhantiquecoop.com.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **MONIQUE SAKELLARIOS** Work will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **NANCY HUBBE** December and January artist at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **NATIVITIY SCENES** will be on display through Dec. 31 at the America's Credit Union Museum, 420 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Sat., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 629-1553.

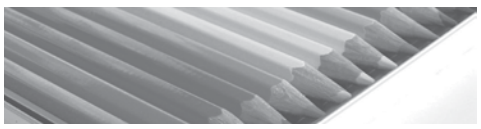
• **NEIL WETHERBEE** Photographs

In a gallery near you



Rochester gets bazaar

The New England Language Center will host a Russian Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its International Art Gallery, 16 Hillside Drive, Rochester. The event, which is free and open to the public, will show contemporary Russian art and traditional Russian icons, storytelling, Russian cartoons, and historical information about the crafts. For a small fee, which will go to Russian artists, visitors can paint Russian Troika and Grand Father Frost Christmas cards. Call 332-2255 or e-mail marina@anylanguage.org. A Russian Bazaar will be held in Rochester. Courtesy photo.



Local Color

• **Time to party:** Bud Thorpe and the rest of the guys and gals at the Studio of Photographic Arts (SOPHA), 15 Merrill St., Manchester, are known for always having a good time. So what better way to ring in the holiday season than to celebrate with them? They will be hosting a SOPHA Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be free food. RSVP by e-mailing Bud at bud@theSOPHA.com.

• **Gertler artist for two months:** Watercolorist Donna Gertler will have her work on display for December and January at the Re/Max Properties Gallery, 2 Ash St., Hollis. Gertler started her study of watercolor at the Kaji Aso Studios in Boston in the 1970s. She has continued her learning by studying with such elite teachers as Bill Griffiths at the Fitchburg Art Museum, Sue Callahan and Evelien Bachrack at the Sharon Arts Center, and most recently Suzanne Binnie at Culhaven Studios, according to information provided by the Hollis Arts Society, of which Gertler has been a member since 2009. In addition to her love of art, Gertler, who lives just over the border in Pepperell, Mass., is an avid gardener. E-mail Pat Hurd, president of the Hollis Arts Society, at phurd1503@aol.com.

• **Get your trunk on:** In an effort to connect the community with artists, the Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, will host a special Artisan Trunk Show on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature the works of designer Naomi Lerner Tussin of Avon, Conn. Tussin's jewelery, according to the staff of Sharon Arts, has a clean and contemporary design but with a twist. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org or naomijewelry.biz.

• **Enjoy winter without ever stepping outdoors:** The Currier Museum, 150 Ash St., Manchester, will hold one of its monthly Focus Tours on Friday, Dec. 16, at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m. The tour, which is called "Celebrating Winter — A Ramble through Snowy Scapes," will be led by Docent Jane White, who will guide visitors through a winter-themed tour of landscape paintings. The tour is free with museum admission. Visit currier.org or call 669-6144 ext. 108. —*Adam Coughlin*

In a gallery near you



Photography takes over Amherst

Neil Wetherbee Sr. took up photography in 1968 and hasn't looked back since. The internationally known landscape photographer will have his work on display through early January at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Wetherbee focuses on landscapes and seascapes and often tries to capture the mood of the subject. He has exhibited more than 1,000 photos in exhibitions in more than 30 countries. Visit amherst.lib.nh.us or call 673-2288. Work of Neil Wetherbee. Courtesy photo.

will be on display through early January at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Visit amherst.lib.nh.us or call 673-2288.

• **NEW WORKS** by Fine Arts Faculty will be on display through Dec. 16 in the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery at Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. The event is free and open to the public. Call 526-3647 or visit colby-sawyer.edu/arts/index.html/.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, verdigrisartisans.com.

• **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through the summer at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Call 284-7728 or visit patricialaddcarega.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PRECIOUS** Multi-artist holiday exhibit through Jan. 15 at Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit soorye.com.

• **SAM PAOLINI** Work will be on display through March at the Steez Gallery, 85 W Pearl St., Nashua. Visit thesteezgallery.com.

• **SCARLET ELECTRIC** Multi-artist exhibit on display through December at Launch Art, 28 Grove St., Peterborough. On view by appointment. Visit scarletelectric.com.

• **SILENT AUCTION** held every third Thursday of the month through December, 6-9 p.m. at 100 Main St., Nashua. Call 930-0623.

• **SMALL WORKS** will be on display through Dec. 31 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover. Visit lucysartemporium.com.

• **SMALL WORKS, GREAT GIFTS** Holiday theme show on display through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **TOGETHER AGAIN** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 16 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **VISIONS AND REFLECTIONS: DIVERSE JOURNEYS** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through Dec. 24 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **WATER** Works by Kathy Tangney will be on display through Dec. 31 at Sage Gallery... a Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, 70 Lowell St., Manchester. Call 626-7243 or visit sagegallery.net.

• **WESTERN NH ARTISTS** The work of Alicia Drakiotes and Sienna Merrifield Giffin will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

Open calls

• **CALL FOR ART** from artists under 30 years old for an exhibit in March at the Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough. There is a $15 entry fee and submissions are due by Dec. 31. E-mail comingofage@sharonarts.org.

• **CALL FOR ART** for monthly displays in the rotunda of the Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library. Contact library director Carol Roberts at carolrose56@hotmail.com or 654-2581.

• **CALL FOR ART** Exhibit for two months at Art on the Wall at City Hall Gallery, 1 City Hall Plaza, Manchester, for $300. Contact Georgie Reagan, Mayor's Assistant for the Arts, 624-6500 to apply.

Children's art classes

• **FALL/WINTER ART CLASSES** at Becks Arts Express, 5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua, 781-910-3438, artsexpressnh.com. Winter break camp will be held Dec. 27 through Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-12. Costs $75.

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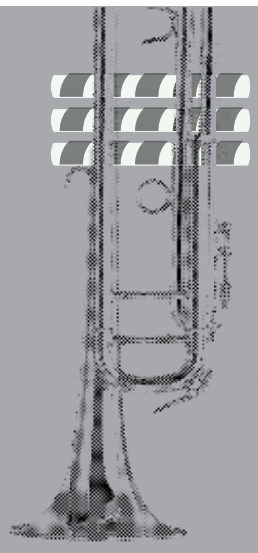
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Northern Ballet is back

Founder Doreen Cafarella has high standards for stage

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com


Steven Melendez and Cecile Cirard. Courtesy photo.

For the first time since 2005, the Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Centre will stage a performance of *The Nutcracker*. The reason for the hiatus: founder Doreen Cafarella will not settle for anything less than the best. She has nothing to worry about this time.

It has been a long journey for Cafarella toward her goal of bringing the art of dance to New Hampshire. She knows Nashua has a great symphony and wonderful youth and community theater. But she believes in the power of movement. Upon her retirement from the Boston Ballet, for which she danced professionally, Cafarella moved to Nashua to raise her two children. In 1985, she founded the Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Center with hopes of turning it into a professional dance company. This dream was realized in 1998, but in the interim Cafarella spent the years building up the school. Many of her students have gone on to dance professionally around the country. One is a Rockette, and Garett Hawe of Hollis is the ballet lead in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway.

Despite this success, Cafarella still wanted to have a professional team. She got it in 1998, when she had fully professional dancers on salary for 30 weeks a year. They toured through New England, performing in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. They were on the brink of bringing in world-renowned choreographers because the quality of their talent was so high. But then the world changed. Sept. 11 happened and the economy plummeted and funding started drying up.

"In 2005 we did our last *Nutcracker* performance," Cafarella said. "It was too bad because we had established a great audience. People had even gotten to know the dancers and would call ahead to see who was performing that evening."

Although she may have been disappointed, Cafarella was never deterred. Her school, which she said is always the backbone of a dance studio, was still going strong. In the interim years her students performed *Clara's Christmas Dream*, which has many of the same beloved characters as the longer *The Nutcracker*.

"The young people I work with are outstanding," Cafarella said. "They are all goal-orientated and maintain the highest grades in school even though they dance almost three hours a day. Sometimes I am amazed how they manage their time." Cafarella firmly believes that students who are involved in the arts, whether that be dance, music or sculpture, turn out to be valuable members of society who thrive.

Yet Cafarella knew a lot of people were missing their production of *The Nutcracker*.

"The critics called our performance the one to see north of Boston," Cafarella said. "Of course that was when New Hampshire still had critics."

Cafarella decided it was time to be bold. She would once again call on her professional connections in New York and put on a one-of-a-kind performance of *The Nutcracker*. Of course, there was the financial risk. But her love of the arts and her belief that they add to our humanities was too strong a call.

"The arts add to humanity," Cafarella said. "When people come to a performance they get away for a few hours. As long as it is done well. And that is why I haven't done it since 2005. I wanted it to be the best."

She feels she has that this year. The performance will combine her pre-professional students and the aforementioned six stars from New York City. It will be a full-scale version of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece.

She said as of Dec. 1, ticket sales looked promising. Cafarella said their venue, the Keefe Auditorium, is one of the largest in the state with approximately 1,500 seats, which means tickets will most certainly be available at the door.

The Nutcracker
When: Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.
Where: Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua
Tickets: $18 to $25
More info: 889-8408 or visit nbtdc.com

THEATER LISTINGS

- **The Acting Loft** 670 North Commercial Street, Manchester in the Jefferson Mill Building.666-5999, actingloft.org
- **Actorsingers** 219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org
- **Adams Memorial Opera House** 29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org
- **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club** 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com
- **Andy's Summer Playhouse** Wilton, 654-2613, andyssummerplayhouse.org
- **Anselmian Abbey Players** Dana Center, 641-7700
- **Bedford Off Broadway** Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
- **Bedford Town Hall** 70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
- **Bedford Youth Performing Company** 155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
- **Belle Voci** bellevoci.org, 848-7986
- **Capitol Center for the Arts** 44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- **Concord Chorale** 224-0770, concordchorale.org
- **Concord City Auditorium** 2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players** 224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
- **The Dana Center** 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu
- **The Hampstead Theatre** 1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr.

Curtain Calls

• **Satellite lands in Manchester:** In 1997, while a college student, Michael Shaughnessy laid down for a nap and had a vision. Shaughnessy imagined a school where students could study music composition and create their own songs, not just mimic other artists. He felt like this would help kids invest in music and take ownership, a feeling he knew personally could lead to a lifetime affair with the art form. "Creating our own music has been left out of the process," Shaughnessy said. "That is why people don't continue with music — because they're not participating in the process." It wasn't until he graduated that the name came to him in 2000: Satellite School of the Arts. He began by offering private lessons and spent six years in California with his wife and kids. Moving to Manchester, Shaughnessy decided to invest in the idea and started a non-profit organization. Now, besides his studio in Manchester, he also has a music lab in South America. The idea behind it is that kids who can't afford music teachers or a lot of space can learn through video and online teaching. He focuses heavily on music fundamentals but does so in a fun way. He is also in the process of finishing a music lab at Mount Zion Christian Schools, which is located at 138 Titus Ave. in Manchester. This will be the site of his Christmas Music Camp, which will be held Wednesday, Dec. 28, through Friday, Dec. 30. He held a similar camp over the summer and it was a big success. During these three days kids will learn how to perform in groups. At the end, they will perform at the Veterans hospital in Manchester. Most of the students are in grades 2 through 6, while Shaughnessy gets help from junior high and high school students as well as an adult faculty. The school teaches piano, guitar and voice lessons, music theory, intro to film and music recording. Visit michaelvincentshaughnessy.com.

• **Majestic makes move:** As previously noted, the Majestic Theatre is moving out of its home on the West Side of Manchester because of new safety requirements mandating a sprinkler system be installed in the old building. The dinner theater shows, as always, will be held at the Chateau restaurant but the theater has "entered into negotiations with the Manchester Community Music School and Mount Saint Mary's Academy to move all non-dinner productions to the former Holy Cross Hall of their campus," according to a press release provided by the Majestic. Call 669-7469 or visit majestictheatre.net.

• **Local concert gets broadcast live:** Local singer Tenley Westbrook's concert, "Christmas for the Troops 2011," will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. at Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, free and open to the public. The concert will also be viewable live at her website, tenleywestbrook.com, and on Android and Apple devices, like your iPhone. The concert will feature Christmas music, patriotic songs and holiday favorites. She will be joined by composer Tim Janis. Visit tenleywestbrook.com. *—Adam Coughlin*

Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302, www.hampsteadstage.org
• **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net
• **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org
• **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage**
Professional Co.
698 Beech St., Manchester, 627-8787
• **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org
• **Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps**
PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org
• **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org
• **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950
• **Nashua Theatre Guild**
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nashuatheatreguild.org
• **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
• **Nashua Community College Performing**
Arts Club (PAC)
505 Amherst St., Nashua, 428-3544
• **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
• **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org
• **Pittsfield Players**
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852, pittsfieldplayers.com
• **Profile Chorus**
profilechorus.org
• **School of Theater Arts at The Amato Center for Performing Arts**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 20
• **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472
• **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
• **Stagecoach Productions**
7 Bayberry Way, Mont Vernon, 672-9664 stagecoachproductions.org
• **Stage One Productions Dinner Theatre at the Chateau Restaurant**
201 Hanover St., Manchester 669-5511, stageoneprod.com

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Nashua Court Street Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost from $12 to $17. Visit peacockplayers.org or call 886-7000.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec.18, at 2 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost $16. There will also be performances on Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost $6. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m., Fridays, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m., Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost $15-$45. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• ***AN 1836 PORTSMOUTH NUTCRACKER*** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 17, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $39.50 and $27.50. Nutshell performances (which are the a.m. shows) cost $29.50 and $24.50. Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• ***A GAY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS*** Performance by Rene Pfister will be on Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at Whistler House, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets cost $25. Call 978-452-7641 or visit whistlerhouse.org.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Center will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec. 18, at the Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. All performances are at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $18-$25. Call 889-8408 or visit nbtdc.com.

• ***TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS*** featuring performances by Eastern Ballet Institute and Concord Community Music School on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 and 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost $16.50 ($12.50 for seniors and students). Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• ***TWELVE DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS*** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets









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cost $10 ($6 for kids under 12). Visit lifelinedrama.com.

• **CHANUKAH AT THE PALACE** will be performed on Sun., Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost $18 ($10 for children). Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• ***THE NUTCRACKER*** Turning Pointe Center of Dance will perform on Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost $15. Call 485-8740 or e-mail tpcd@comcast.net.

• ***MADELINE'S CHRISTMAS*** will be performed through Dec. 18 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Shows are Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets cost $10. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

• ***THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS SHOW (ABRIDGED)*** will be performed through Dec. 18 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass. Performances are at 2, 4, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost $42, $48 and $54. Visit merrimackrep.org or call 978-654-4MRT.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed through Dec. 23 at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays, at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. There are also 7 p.m. shows on Tues., Dec. 20, Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23. Visit playersing.org or call 436-8123.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Show times are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost $24-$35. Visit seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.

• ***IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:*** Live from WVL Radio Theater will be performed on Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost $20, $29 and $35. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS AND CAROLING** will be held on Wed., Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Tickets cost $7 ($6 for seniors; $3 for students). Visit mariposamuseum.org.

• ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL*** will be performed on Wed., Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Stone Church Music Club, 5 Granite St., Newmarket. Tickets cost $15. Visit stonechurchrocks.com.

• **PHYZGIG SOUTH** will be held Dec. 26-Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. at the West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $15. Visit pontine.org.

• **ANNUAL WINTER GALA** will be held on Thurs., Dec. 29, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit andyssummerplayhouse.org or e-mail info@andyssummerplayhouse.org.

• ***HANSEL AND GRETEL*** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Thurs., Dec. 29, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $12.50. Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• ***TWELFTH NIGHT*** will be performed Jan. 6- Jan. 22, at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $24 ($18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.

• ***MAMMA MIA!*** will be performed on Tues., Jan. 10, and Wed., Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost $50, $70 and $100. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **TRIP TO BROADWAY** Will leave Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester at 8:30 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 13, and will leave New York City on Sun., Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. Cost is $525 per person. Includes round-trip bus fare, two nights in a hotel and a ticket to Sister Act. Call 668-5588 or e-mail tinakelly@palacetheatre.org.

• ***COLLABORATORS*** National Theatre broadcast on Sat., Jan. 14, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **THE CAPITOL STEPS IN CONCERT** will perform on Fri., Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost $6 to $38.50. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• ***THE INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS*** will be performed on Fri., Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost $25, $33 and $45. Call 225-1111 or visit ccanh.com.

• ***THE ENCHANTED ISLAND*** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Jan. 21, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• ***DRIVING MISS DAISY*** will be performed on Thurs., Jan. 26, Fri., Jan. 27, and Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 28, and Sun., Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. at 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost $15 ($12 for seniors and students). Call 320-2530 or visit nashuatheatreguild.org.

• ***LOST IN YONKERS*** Dinner theater will be held Jan. 27-Jan. 29 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• ***THE LITTLE FARM SHOW NACL*** Theatre will perform Jan. 27-Jan.29 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL** will be held on Thurs., Feb. 2, Fri., Feb. 3, and Sat., Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost $6-$8. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• ***RIGOLETTO*** will be performed on Mon., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• ***TRAVELING LIGHT*** National Theatre of London HD Broadcast will be held on Thurs., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $27.50 ($15 for ages 18 and under). Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• ***THE PHILADELPHIA STORY*** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 10, and Sat., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Visit communityplayersofconcord.org.

• ***GOTTERDAMMERUNG*** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Feb. 11 at noon at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• ***SUITEHEARTS*** Dinner theater will be held Feb. 24-Feb. 26 at the Chateau Function Facility, 201 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• ***ERNANI*** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** National Theatre broadcast on Sat., March 3, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost $25 ($20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** National Theatre broadcast on Sat., March 3, at 1 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost $27.50 ($15 for ages 18 and under). Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

• ***THE MATH MANIAC SHOW WITH MAX MILLIONS*** will be performed on Tues., March 6, 2012, at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

On stage



Christmas comes to life in Peterborough

Well-known historian and performer Sebastian Lockwood will read Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Lockwood teaches improv at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and studied anthropology and the classics at Boston University and Cambridge. Besides Lockwood's performances, there will also be caroling with Nanette Perrotte. The event costs $7 ($6 for seniors, $3 for students and children). Call 924-4555 or visit mariposamuseum.org. Sebastian Lockwood. Courtesy photo.

Auditions/open calls

• ***THE BIRDS*** **AND** ***EURYDICE*** Auditions for the two productions will be held Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. and Mon., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theatre, 44 N. Main St., Derry. Visit tkapow.com.

• ***I REMEMBER MAMA*** Auditions will be held on Tues., Dec. 27, and Wed., Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Roles for 13 women and nine men, all of various ages. Visit garrisonplayers.org or call 516-4919.

Classes for kids

• **YOUTH THEATRE CAMP** Hillcat Community Theatre will host a

theater camp Dec. 27 through Dec. 30 for kids ages eight to eighteen. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 27-Dec. 29 and 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 30. Costs $30 for Hillsboro, Deering or Washington kids. Call 568-5102 or visit hdsd.org.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **CELTIC CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. Call 617-875-7851 or visit bostonstringquartet.com.

• **BRASS FLOURISH** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 777 West Hollis St., Nashua. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **STILE ANTICO** Choral ensemble will perform on Fri., Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center at UNH-Durham. Call 862-2290.

• **BOSTON POPS** will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets cost $20-$124. Call 863-7300 ext. 603.

• **CAROLING AT THE CURRIER** will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, noon-1:30 p.m. at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit mcsnh.org.

• **CHRISTMAS AT BROOKSIDE** - A Shepard's Christmas will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at the Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit brooksidecc.org.

• **CHRISTMAS FOR THE TROOPS 2011** Tenley Westbrook will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. at Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland. The concert is free. Visit tenleywestbrook.com.

• **ROCK MY SOUL** Concert will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. at St. John's Methodist Chrurch, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover. Tickets cost $15. Call 207-450-8016 or visit rootsgospel.org.

• **WINTER CONCERT** Newly formed StageCoach Women's Chorus will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at Nashua Community College, 50 Amherst St., Nashua. Tickets cost $5. Call Judy at 672-9664.

• **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be performed on Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 197 Dover Point Road, Dover. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit stalux.org or call 742-3206.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost $12 ($7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **HIGH STRUNG** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost $12-$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **FANFARE 2012** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. Tickets cost $75. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost $12 ($7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **DMITRY KOUZOV** Cellist will perform on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **NASHUA SYMPHONY STRING QUARTET** Performance will be held on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **CORDIS QUARTET** will be performed Fri., March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **CELTIC JOURNEY** NH Philharmonic will perform on Sat., March 17, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost $15 to $50. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **SIMPLY GREAT** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., March 17, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost $12-$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony

• **THE HEIGHT OF RUSSIAN ROMANTICISM** Concert will be performed on Sat., March 24, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost $10 to $35. Call 226-4776 or visit gsso.org.

• **TAKACS QUARTET** will be performed on Wed., April 11, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** The Saint Anselm College Choir will perform on Sat., April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/abbey/choir.

• **NATION BUILDING** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., April 14, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost $12-$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony

• **SNHU COMMUNITY BAND** Performance will be held on Mon., April 16, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **BALA BASS** Performance will be held on Thurs., April 19, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500

On stage



Holiday concert on seacoast

Rock My Soul, a 20-member secular choir, will perform a gospel holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. The concert will feature Christmas carols that have been amped up with gospel music as well as R&B and doo wop holiday favorites. Featured soloists for the evening will include Dawn Boyer, Jody Dugrenier, Brett Hartenbach, Carolyn Morse-Finn, Mark Weaver, and Tina Weinberger. The concert will be held at St. John's Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover. Tickets cost $15 at the door, $12 in advance. Call 207-450-8016 or visit rootsgospel.org. Rock My Soul. Courtesy photo.

On stage



Boston comes to Nashua

During its holiday tour, the Boston String Quartet will travel to 24 theaters, churches and museums throughout the Northeast. During these performances the Quartet will be joined by a full chorus and award-winning Celtic vocalist Pan Morigan. The group emphasizes rhythm and beats in a way that differentiates it from other string ensembles. Locally the Quartet will perform on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. Call 617-875-7851 or visit bostonstringquartet.com. Boston String Quartet. Courtesy photo.

On stage



Holiday concert at UNH

Stile Antico, an English specialist choral ensemble that last visited UNH in October 2010, returns with a Christmas concert on Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Johnson Theatre on the Durham campus. In the concert, which is called "Puer natus est," the ensemble will focus on Thomas Tallis' seven-part mass, which was first performed in 1554. It was performed back then to celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday but also, according to information provided by the university, to celebrate the pregnancy of Queen Mary. Call 862-2290 or visit unh.edu/music. Stile Antico. Courtesy photo.

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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Outside the box

Creative gifts for kids of all ages from local learning centers

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

When it comes to holiday shopping for kids, you have to balance price, the child's preference, and the parents' preference. Luckily for New Hampshire residents, local businesses, museums and organizations offer a number of great options for children of all interests.

The **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St., Manchester), which houses exhibits for both children and adults, offers a family membership that includes free admission for a year to the center. A regular family membership costs $80, and a contributing membership ($125) includes the same benefits in addition to eight passes to use for guests.

The Science Center also holds a gift shop for the science geek in your life. The store contains a mix of expensive and inexpensive items, ranging in price from 25 cents to $50. Items for purchase include LEGO products, science games, Webkinz, stocking-stuffers and everything in between. The three-part rocket sets and Hot Wings merchandise (collectable airplanes and toys) are extremely popular items this year, said Development Director Peter Gustafson.

The museum shop also offers a one-of-a-kind gift that true LEGO fans will appreciate: a book on the making of the LEGO Millyard Project, which is the largest permanent LEGO installation at minifigure scale in the world. The structure represents Manchester's Amoskeag Millyard as it might have looked in 1900, and the book features the making of the structure and history of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. The book, titled "The Lego Millyard Project: three million pieces & two and a half years in the making," is also available online, costing just $7 in addition to a $3 shipping and handling fee.

The gift shop and the Science Center are open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 669-0400 or visit www.seesciencecenter.org. Admission is not required in order to shop.

Little history buffs may be interested in gifts that the **Millyard Museum** has to offer — it's near the SEE, in Mill #3 at the corner of Commerical and Pleasant streets in Manchester. Family memberships are available here for $60, which allows free museum admission. Visit manchesterhistoric.org for more details.

The Millyard Museum also features a great gift shop. Toy balls and jacks, propellers, and all sorts of old-fashioned toys line the shelves. The children's book *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor* is there, as Margaret E. Knight is represented in the museum's exhibit. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Call 622-7531.

A little to the north, **The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord) is offering membership specials; those who buy memberships before the end of December will receive plus-level benefits at the basic-level pricing. Membership at either the McAuliffe-Shepard or the SEE Science Center gives you free or reduced admission to more than 285 other science centers that are part of the ASTC (Association of Science-Technology Centers) reciprocal program. There are a number of different membership pricing options at the Discovery Center, and they can be viewed at www.starhop.com/membership. Membership can also be purchased over the phone at 271-7827.

And for the child who's just not into things like three-part exploding rockets, maybe some art gift passes to **Beck's Art Express LLC** (6 Gaffney St., Nashua), a new art business run by Rebecca Fredrickson, will fit the bill. Fredrickson offers different art workshops during the winter season, and folks can buy gift certificate for the classes, workshops and camps she offers. Call her at 781-910-3438.

Introduce a child to another culture with a gift from the **Mariposa Museum** in Peterborough (26 Main St.), which offers goodies from around the world. Because they eliminate the "middle man," the museum offers very good prices on the ornaments, jewelry, purses, bags, baskets, hackey sacks, flutes and other items that are sold at the gift shop.

"Much of what we buy is also fair trade, and they're unique items to other countries," said Mose Olenik of the Mariposa Museum. "They're not commercial-made, but they're instead created by smaller organizations around the world."

The museum also offers family membership options; one family membership costs $60, and it provides unlimited trips to the museum and discounts at the gift shop. Call 924-4555 or visit www.mariposamuseum.org.

Moms and dads who parent little Bindy Irwins may want to visit the **New Hampshire Audubon Society's McLane Center** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord), which houses items that the animal- and outdoor-lover will go googly over Christmas morning. Games and puzzles such as Bird-opoly, Bug-opoly, Earth-opoly, Butterfly Bingo and Fundanas Outdoor Banana Game Boards line the shelves, right next to the compact binoculars and Birds of Prey coloring and activity books. You'll find nature-inspired books by New Hampshire authors John Rockwood, Nancy Donovan and Kathy Brodsky at the McLane Center, as well. Camp days for children 6 to 12 can also be purchased for December, February or April vacations. Visit www.nhaudubon.org/programs/camps.

But perhaps the coolest gift to give an animal-lover is the opportunity to adopt an animal through New Hampshire Audubon.

Volunteers can help care for one of the Audubon's raptors, reptiles or amphibians for one month, which would help support the costs required to care for the creatures that thousands of students and families come to visit each year. Adoption fees range from $35 to $75, depending on the costs associated with the chosen animal.

Call 224-9909 for more details on the McLane gift store, camp days, and animal option programs, or e-mail swall@nhaudubon.org.





(top) The McLane Center offers everything a nature- and animal-loving kid could want. (above) The Millyard Museum gift shop sells old-fashioned toys and goodies.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Events

• **SHIMMERING SNOWBALLS** at Laconia Public Library (695 Main St., Laconia) on Thus., Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. Kids grades 1-6 can design their own ornaments. Call 524-4775, x13.

• **JUST DANCE** is a program put on by the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) that invites teens grades 6 to 12 to show off their dance moves with the Wii video game. Dance Thursdays Dec. 15, Jan. 19 and Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Game is fun for novice and experienced dancers.

• **TOYS FOR TOTS** will be collected at Benley Commons (66 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford) this year. Stop by before Fri., Dec. 16, with unwrapped boys and stay for a cup of coffee and a cookie.

• **LEGO CLUB** at the Laconia Public Library (695 Main St., Laconia) on Fri., Dec. 16, at 3:30 at the Laconia Rotary Hall. Free event for kids age 5-12.

• **HOLIDAY PAJAMA STORYTIME** at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St.) on Mon., Dec. 19, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Children's Room. Join Miss Mary Beth and Miss Joan for stories, music, movement, and Christmas craft. Registration required. Visit www.wadleighlibrary.org or call 673-2408.

• **ORNAMENT PAINTING** for children 7 and older will take place at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Tues., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. Learn how to paint glass ornaments for your tree from artist Kristine Brock, and make beautiful bulbs with ceramic paint. Sign up at http:;//hollislibrary.org or contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

• **STORIES AND CAROLING** at the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough) on Wed., Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Master story-teller Sebastion Lockwood will read Dylan Thomas"s A Child's Christmas in Whales and a Christmas Memory by Truman Capote. Between stories Nanette Perrotte will lead guests in caroling. Admission is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors, $5 for members and $3 for children. Visit www.mariposamuseum.org or call 924-4555.

• **MOVIES** at the Manchester Library this month will be *Mr. Popper's Penguins* on Fri., Dec. 16; *Kung Fu Panda 2* on Fri., Dec. 23; and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* on Fri., Dec. 30. Visit www.manchester.ibrary.org or call 624-6460.

• **CREATE YOUR OWN CANDYLAND BOARD GAME** at the Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St., Lowell) on Wed., Dec. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m.

• **MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be played at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Fril, Dec. 23, at 2:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

• **VACATION FAMILY MOVIES** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Rd., Hudson) at 1:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 27, to Fri., Dec. 30. See family-favorites on the

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Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Fire, air, water

Parents and children are invited to learn about electricity! The Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) will feature **Zip! Zap! Pop!** this Friday, Dec. 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. The event will teach the basics of static and current electricity, which materials conduct and insulate electricity, and how to save energy this winter. Admission is $5 per family, and advanced registration is required. Call 626-3474 or visit www.amoskeagfishways.org.

"**How We Conquered the Air**" celebrates the 108th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight (Dec. 17), with a presentation by David Price, associate dean of aviation at Bridgewater State University. The event will take place on Friday, Dec. 16, at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is $9 (seniors/students $8, children $6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time.

Tunes

Calm down your little ones with some soothing music from **harpist** Lisa Washington Calvo in the rotunda of Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m., free and open to the public.

Heads of all ages can bop to some jazzy jams at the **Holiday Jazz Concert** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. The show will feature the Crazy Eights, an ensemble of students from the Alvirne High Jazz Band. Refreshments will be served. Free admission.

Books and movies

On Friday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. kids can watch ***Mr. Popper's Penguins*** (PG) at the West Manchester Community Library, 76 N. Main St., 624-6460.

Santa!

Breakfast with Santa and a **Craft Fair** will take place Saturday, Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon at Centerwoods Elementary, 14 Center Road, Weare. Breakfast is $3 per person with a $15 family cap. Bring a camera to take photos with Santa.

Santa Claus will also visit the Londonderry Access Center (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. Kids can tell Santa what they want for Christmas live on CTV-20. Get photos, enjoy goodies and stories, and sing Christmas carols. Call 432-1147.

In Hooksett, the Tri-Town Ice Arena at 311 West River Road, 485-1100, is holding a **Skate with Santa** on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. There will be hot cocoa and cookies at the concession stand, and guests who bring in a new unwrapped gift will receive a pass for one free public skate. Admission is $6 (or buy a card worth 10 admissions for $50), and skate rentals are available for $4. See www.tri-townicearena.com.

big screen. On Tues., *Cars 2* will be shown; on Wed., *The Smurfs*, Thus., *Kung Fu Panda 2*, and Fri. will be *Dolphin Tales*. Snacks will be served. Bring own comfy chairs, if desired. Call 886-6030.

• **TRAVEL CLUB** at the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets every month to take a "journey" to a different country. On Tues., Dec. 27, visit Germany; on Tues., Jan 24, visit Canada, and on Tues., Feb 28, visit China. For grades K-5. Registration recommended. Call 624-6550, ext. 328.

• **TIME CAPSULES** can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules to be opened in 2013! Free event.

• **RPG ADVENTURES** at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Thus., Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. Fun and games for children 13-17 who want to delve into a world of Mountain Dew, wizards and dragons. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **NEW YEAR'S PARTY** on Fri., Dec. 30, at 11:30 a.m. in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Ring in the new year with noisemakers, balloons and confetti. Children aged invited to the celebration. Registration required. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.

• **FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, Sat., Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ring in the New Year with family and friends of all ages than at the Children's Museum of NH's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Create festive party hats, write wishes for the new year on flying blimps, and join in raucous "countdowns to midnight" at 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. Complete with glittering ball drop and ginger ale toast.

•**GAME TIME** for game-board lovers at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m. Kids 10 and up are invited to join in and play Guesstimation and Name 5. Call 668-5557.

In the spotlight

Breathe New Hampshire

In last week's Hippo, the story "Gifts for Everyone" looked at area groups that focused on health, seniors, helping children and community support and how you could help them out this holiday season. If you know of a group that didn't make it into the story, let us know at ksennott@hippopress.com.

Looking to lend a hand to lung-related health? Breathe New Hampshire, the state's oldest nonprofit voluntary health agency, has been focused on lung disease since it began 95 years ago. The agency provides a number of different volunteer opportunities for New Hampshire residents and is always looking for volunteers in administration, in special events, health fairs, exhibits, health fairs and special events including a bike tour this spring (May 19-20) on the seacoast. Proceeds for these and for other fundraising events will go back into emerging lung health issues, such as asthma, COPD, nicodtine addiction and environmental issues. Visit www.breathenh.org or call 669-2411. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Nature

•**BEAVER IN WINTER** will teach event attendees about what bevers do in the winter at he Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Sat., Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost is $6 for members, $8 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org

or call 968-7194.

• **WATERVILLE VALLEY SKI & SNOWBOARD TRIP** organized by Concord Parks & Recreation will take place on Fri., Dec. 23, from 7 a.m. to 5;30 p.m. Cost is $50 for residents and $60 for non-residents, which includes price of transportation, lift ticket, and $10 lunch voucher. Deadline is Thus., Dec. 15. Visit www.confordnh.gov.recreation or call 225-8690 for more information or to register.

• **FISHWAYS OPEN HOUSE** Amoskeag Fishways will hold an Open House on Dec. 28 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m., which will feature live animal shoes, crafts, treats and door prizes. Admission is free, and no pre-registration necessary. Call 626-3474.

• **PIZZA PARTY WITH THE PAINTED TURTLE** at the Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will eat pizza and meet animals. Admission is $15 per family, which includes pizza. Advanced registration required; Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

CRAFTS

Scrapbooking & paper

• **AMANDALIZ SCRAPBOOK COMPANY** (135 Route 101A, Carriage Depot Plaza, Amherst, 886-4544, www.amandalinz.com) offers classes on building theme pages, with themes like back to school or the Red Sox.

• **FREE CROP** at Scrappin' Soul Sisters (7 Perely St., Concord, www.scrappinsoulsisters.com) Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **MARY'S MEMORIES** (12 Clark Road, Milford, 249-8978, www.marysmemories.com) offers individual lessons, one-session workshops and a basic scrapbooking class.

• **NH SCRAPBOOK CABIN** 294 Route 101 at Greeley Point in Amherst (next to Salzburg Square), www.nhscrapbookcabin.com, 769-3333, offers a variety of scrapbooking classes.

• **PAPER TECHNIQUES** workshops will be held at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson, on the first Thursday of the month, 2:30-4 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. Learn how to make things out of paper. Projects include scrapbooking, card-making, stamping, quilting and decoupage. Pre-register at 886-6030.

• **THE PAPER TREE** (865 Second St. in Manchester, 624-8800, www.thepapertree.net) offers one-day classes for different paper art projects and aspects of scrapbooking as well as open studio time. Daytime and weekend classes available.

• **SCRAPBOOK ISLAND** (15 West Broadway, Derry, 421-2881, derryscrapbookisland.com) offers various classes along with Ladies Layout Night Club on the first Wednesday of the month. Visit the website for a full list of classes.

• **SCRAPPIN' SOUL SISTERS** (7 Perley St., Concord, 717-7136, www.scrappinsoulsisters.com) offers classes and crops, which are gatherings where scrapbookers get together to work on projects and share ideas (crops feature food and run from 6 p.m. to midnight every other Friday).

• **STAMPING MEMORIES** (96 DW Hwy in Belmont, 528-0498, www.nhstampingmemories.com, info@nhstampingmemories.com) offers classes on a variety of kinds of card-making.

• **TALK PAPER SCISSORS** (Willow Tree Plaza, 575 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-8009, www.talkpaperscissors.com) offers introductory scrapbooking classes as well as classes on specific aspects of scrapbooking (collage-making, art journaling) and on crafts such as card-making and lampshade-decorating.

• **THURSDAY NIGHT SCRAPPERS** at Pine Tree Quilt Shop (224 North Broadway, Salem, 870-8100, pinetreequiltshop.com) on the third Thursday of the month 5:30-8:30 p.m. Get help and work on an unfinished projects or learn a new technique each month. Cost is $12 per session.

Other

• **ORNAMENT PAINTING** for children 7 and older will take place at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Tues., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. Learn how to paint glass ornaments for your tree from artist Kristine Brock, and make beautiful bulbs with ceramic paint. Sign up at http://hollislibrary.org or contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

• **TIME CAPSULES** can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules to be opened in 2013! Free event.

• **BEADING CLASSES** Bead Bush Studio, 43 Mt. Delight Road, Deerfield. Register at www.beadbush.com.

• **DRAWING LESSONS** Becks Arts Express, at Toys Spot, 115 Northeastern Blvd. in Nashua. Call 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com for times and to register.

• **IKEBANA JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT** weekly classes held on Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Evening classes on Thurs. & Fri. 595-8877, www.ikebanaflower.com.

• **LADIES NIGHT** You're Fired Studio (133 Loudon Road, Concord; 25 South River Road, Bedford, and 264 North Broadway, Salem, www.yourefirednh.com) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. Half off studio fee for ladies. Adults only. Call 641-FIRE (Bedford), 226-FIRE (Concord) or 894-KILN (Salem).

• **POTTERY CLASSES** Fall class space is available at Pottery@PhoebesBarn at 16 N. Main St., Mont Vernon. Classes are ongoing and accommodate all levels and ages. To register, call 673-3410 or e-mail pottery@phobesbarn.com. Visit www.phoebesbarn.com.

• **WEAVING** Floor and Table Loom at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Six weekly two-hour sessions cost $120. Looms are available for class use and to use at home. Call 505-4432.

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio**
99 Elm St., Manchester,
624-6857, learntodancetoday.com

• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC**
250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com

• **Dance International Studio**
83 Hanover St., Manchester,
858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm

• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios**
3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst,
673-3978, kathyblakedancestudios.com

• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio**
352 S. Broadway, Salem,
870-9350, krystalballroom.com

• **Let's Dance Studio**
5 North Main St., Concord,
228-2800, letsdancenh.com

• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center**
250 Commercial St., Manchester,
641-3880, millaround.com

• **N-Step Dance Center**
2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103
603-641-6787nstepdance.com

• **Paper Moon Dance Center**
515 DW Hwy., Merrimack,
429-1100, papermoondance.com.

• **Queen City Ballroom**
21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com

• **Royal Palace Dance Studio**
167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com

• **Senior Activity Center**
70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155

• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio**
1201 Westford St., Lowell,
978-452-1111,
steppinoutdance-lowell.com

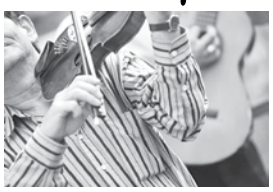
Ballroom classes & dance

• **ARGENTINE TANGO CLASS** Sundays from 3 to 3:45 p.m. (beginner) and 4 to 4:45 p.m. (intermediate) at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. A practica will follow, from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Costs $12 per afternoon, practica costs $5. Singles and couples welcome. To register, contact Randy at 547-0402 or litangonh@gmail.com. Call 622-1500 or go to www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO** (99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, arthurmurray.com) offers classes in ballroom and a variety of other styles. There are also classes specifically for wedding instruction. E-mail info@amdsnh.com.

• **BALLROOM PARTY** Sunday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom Dance Studio, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester. These parties are beginner-friendly with mixer dances and light refreshments. Hardwood floor, recorded music, friendly crowd, smoke- and alcohol-free. Singles and couples welcome. Please bring a change of shoes to protect the dance floor. Start any week, and get free admission your first time. Costs $9 per person. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

In the spotlight



Contra dance in the millyard

Dance the night away on Friday, Dec. 16, at the Mill City Contra Dance at the historic Waumbec Mill (250 Commercial St., Manchester). Dance from 7:30 to 11 p.m. No partner or experience is necessary, as all dances are taught. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for students, and free for those under 12. Call 595-4484 or visit http://tinyurl.com/Mill-City-Contra. This dance takes place the third Friday of each month in the "Mill-a-Round Dance Studio." This month, the dancers will be toe-tapping to "JumpStart."



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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,

I have a question concerning a collection (totaling approx. 200) of "collectible" plates. My father collected from the Bradford exchange from the early '60s to approximately the mid '80s. There were many many varieties — commemoratives etc. My mother became the sole owner of all of them when he died, and now that she has passed, the subject of what to do with them came up.

Someone told a family member that these plates were probably worthless now, or maybe worth up to $10 each at best. My father paid close to $30 each for them! Is this true and if so would it be worth it to try and "reclaim" the gold that is plated on most of the items? That idea was suggested as a way to get something out of the plates, even if it may be minimal. Any advice will be greatly appreciated.

Wayne in New Hampshire

Dear Wayne,

I have to say first this is a tough field for me because these are not really in my market yet but I can share some experience with you that might be helpful.

First of all, in the years I have been in business I have never found one of the collector plates to be worth much more than what people paid for them back in the day (if that). There are always exceptions to the rules — if someone is collecting them now and can't find an individual one, that might make the price higher. And if a series is very limited, I mean really limited.... But, as I said, not so much value because so many were made and too many are still out there.

As far as the gold goes, when it's a plating the process is a very dangerous one and results are so small it's not worth it. I have met someone who actually did it and bought up all gold-plated and -trimmed plates. He had a tank outside for the chemicals and told me himself how dangerous this was with minimal results. So I wouldn't suggest this and I don't believe anyone who buys scrap gold would buy plates for the plating.

My suggestion to you is a long shot but I would search online by the title of each plate and see what the selling value is now and possibly pick and choose the ones that you could possibly sell in that manner. As far as the others I am sorry to say it will be tough to get any more than approximately the $10 each for them (if that). Good luck in your search.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

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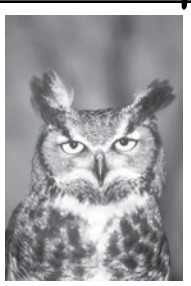
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In the spotlight



Coyote tracks and owl poop in Rye

Get away this weekend! The Seacoast Science Center is hosting a winter walk through Odiorne Point State park on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Look for tracks and signs of the red fox, coyote, turkey, deer, fisher cat, owls, and more ... if you're lucky, you may even spot one! After the guided walk, attendees will dissect owl pellets to discover what the owl's last meal was. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The Guided Nature Walk is free with Seacoast Science Center admission: $5 ages 13 to adult; $2 ages 3 to 12; free under age 3. Meet at the Seacoast Science Center, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye. Call 436-8043.

• **BEGINNER BALLROOM SAMPLER** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Learn the basics of 12 popular partner dances, such as waltz, foxtrot, hustle, swing, cha-cha and tango. Start any week. Classes are run on a rotating basis with each week focusing on two different dances. Costs $5 per person per class. For new students, the first sampler class is free. Discounts available for multiple classes. No partner is required. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCtyBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **CHOREOGRAPHED BALLROOM LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Thursdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **FOX TROT AND WALTZ** Royal Palace Dance Studio on Thursdays, 6:15-7 p.m. is beginner foxtrot and 7-7:45 p.m. is intermediate waltz. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY AND SHOWCASE** hosted by Queen City Ballroom on Sun., Dec. 11, 1-5 p.m., will be held at the Radisson hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Semi-formal. Beginners welcome. Singles and couples welcome. Door prizes, cash bar, DJ. Tickets $12 per person if purchased by Nov. 20, $16 by Dec. 10, $20 at the door. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com. Tickets available by phone or in the studio at 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester.

• **HUSTLE** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Monday night. Beginner class from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. and intermediate class from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Costs $10 per person per class. Singles and couples are welcome, as well as drop-ins. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCtyBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **KATHY BLAKE DANCE STUDIO** (3 Northern Blvd., Amherst, 673-3978, www.kathyblakedances.com) offers Latin, swing and ballroom dance classes as well as jazz, hip-hop, tap and other styles strictly for adults.

• **LET'S DANCE STUDIO** (5 Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancenh.com) has group classes, private lessons, practice sessions, monthly balls, workshops, and wedding dance instruction. Dances taught include tango, waltz, foxtrot, hustle, salsa, merengue, swing, cha-cha, and ballroom. Ballroom and Argentine dancing every Thurs., 8-10 p.m., cost is $5.

• **LONDONDERRY DANCE ACADEMY** (21 Buttrick Road, 432-0032, www.londonderrydance.com) Ballet, pointe, hip-hop, tap, jazz, contemporary, creative movement, pre-dance, yoga, body conditioning, and adult ballet. Home of the New England Dance Ensemble, and the Triple Threat Theater Camp.

• **MILL-A-ROUND DANCE CENTER** (250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com), offers classes in line, round and square dancing.

• **NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (505 Amherst St., Nashua, 882-7022, nashuacc.edu), offers classes for couple in ballroom, Latin, and waltz.

• **OPEN DANCE AND THEME BALL** hosted by Let's Dance Studio in Concord every Thurs., 8-10 p.m. Cost is $5 per person per visit or advance payment $45 for 3 months, with a free group class for a month. Parties and Balls are free for first-time visitors, current group students and all private students past and present.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com), offers group and private lessons, social dance parties and wedding dance instruction. Classes are offered in smooth, rhythm, club, standard and Latin dances. Dance parties are offered every Sat.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (Studios in Merrimack, Nashua, Concord & Amherst, 429-1100, papermoondance.com). Beginner classes Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.; $50 for the month for unlimited group classes (includes all levels, 8 per week total).

• **PRACTICE PARTY** every Fri. at the Royal Palace Dance Studio (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com), open to the public from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome.

• **ROYAL PALACE DANCE STUDIO** (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com) offers group lessons in salsa, Latin, ballroom, rhythm, smooth dances, hip-hop, and aerobic dances along with private dance lessons.

• **SALSA** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. Club-style salsa classes with Masacote Entertainment are taught on Wednesday nights. The 45-minute classes are $45 per person for the month or $15 per person drop-in: Beginner Partnering at 6 p.m., Beginner Footwork at 6:45 p.m., Intermediate Partnering at 6:45 p.m., Advanced Footwork Challenge at 7:30 p.m. and Advanced Partnering at 8:15 p.m. The Adult Performance Team is at 9 p.m. A new beginner series starts on the first Wednesday of the month. To register, call 617-875-9006, e-mail infomasacote@gmail.com or go to www.salsanewhampshire.com. For info on Queen City Ballroom, call 622-1500, e-mail QnCtyBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **SAMBA AND TANGO** at the Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays, intermediate samba from 7 to 7:45 p.m., and intermediate Tango from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

• **SOCIAL DANCING** Paper Moon Dance Center sponsors dances at Kathy Blake Dance Studio (3 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 429-1100, www.papermoondance.com). Two rooms of ballroom, Latin & swing dancing the second & fourth Sat. of each month from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is $10, includes light refreshments.

• **STEPPIN' OUT DANCE STUDIO** (1201 Westford St. Lowell, Mass., 452-1111, steppinoutdancelowell.com) offers ballroom, swing, and salsa classes along with social dances and wedding dance instruction.

• **SWING DANCING** at the Royal Palace Dance Studio on Mondays at 7 p.m., visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **TANGO CLASSES** at the Mariposa (26 Main St., in Peterborough, 924-4555, www.mariposamuseum.org) every Wed., 7-8:30 p.m.

• **WEST COAST SWING** classes on Sunday afternoons at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester, combine swing dancing with R&B, funk, pop, jazz and blues. Instructor Jonathan Barbeau offers a beginner lesson 2-2:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 2:30-3:15 p.m. $10 per person for either or both lessons. No pre-registration necessary. Classes focus on exploration and fun. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bake/yard sales/fundraisers/auctions

• **MONTHLY COMMUNITY SUPPER** hosted by the Grace Episcopal Church 830 Eastman St., East Concord) will take place Fri., Dec. 16, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

• **FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY MEALS** during the holidays in Derry, N.H. Dinner is provided at the Church of Transfiguration (1 Hood Rd., Derry) on Sun., Dec. 11, Wed., Jan. 11, and breakfast will be served at the Church of Transfiguration on Sun., Dec. 18, Sun., Jan 1, and Sun., Jan. 15. Supper at First Parish Church (47 East Derry Rd., Derry) will be served Fri., Dec. 30, and Fri., Jan. 27. Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue (1-1/2 Hood Rd., Derry) on the third Sunday of every month, including Sun., Dec. 18, and Sun., Jan. 15.

Holiday

• **HOLIDAY MUSIC** Harpist Lisa Washington Calvo will play soothing and uplifting music at a music night inside the Library Rotunda at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Thus., Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. Call 624-6550.

• **ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** will take place Fri., Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Led by the Cathedral Chamber Singers and Schola, the music will include traditional Advent Carols and choral music by Cherubini, Praetorius, Handel and Arcadelt. Free-will offering. Call 622-6404.

• **TUCKERMANS AT 9** at St. Marks United Methodist Church (60 Governmetn St., Kittery, ME) will host a holiday concert on Fri., Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Hear some favorites by well-known pop, rock, blues and light jazz. Freewill offering taken, Refreshments afterwards. Call 207-439-9686.

• **SANTA LIVE** Santa Claus is coming to the Londonderry Access Center (281 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) on Sat., Dec. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. Kids can come tell Santa what they want for Christmas live on CTV-20! Get photos, enjoy goodies and stories, and sing Christmas carols. Call 432-1147.

• **PEACE OF LIGHT** is coming to the Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Rd., Bedford) on Sat., Dec. 17, 1 to 4 p.m., when Gretchen Osgood, Peace Light Coordinator for the BSA's Daniel Webster Council, will bring the flame to New Hampshire. Bring oil lamp or enclosed candle to the church. Visit peacelight.org.

• **NEW HORIZONS HOLIDAY PARTY** will take place at Milly's Tavern (500 Commercial St., Manchester) on Sat., Dec. 17, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Live music, silent auction items, appetizers, and it all goes to a good cause. Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Canned food, clothing and monetary donations also accepted. Tickets available at Milly's Tavern, New Horizons for New Hampshire homeless shelter and soup kitchen.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND CRAFT FAIR** will take place Sat., Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon at Centerwoods Elementary, 14 Center Rd. Weare. Breakfast is $3 per person with a $15 family cap. Bring camera for photos.

• **HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Rd., Hudson) on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. Show will feature the Crazy Eights, an ensemble made up of the Alvirne High Jazz Band. Refreshments will be served. Free admission.

• **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND SERVICES** at the First Congregational Church of Salem (15 Lawrence Rd., Salem) on Sun., Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. The pageant, entitled "The Signs of Christmas," will include music from the Church Band. Later, there will be one service at 4 p.m. At 7 p.m., there will be a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, featuring holiday music by the Senior Choir and Church Band.

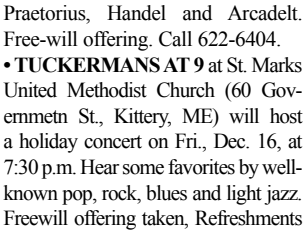
• **WINTER SOLSTICE PEACE**

In the spotlight

Toy drive at the Discovery Center

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive) in Concord is conducting a food and toy drive to help New Hampshire families in need this season. The Center asks for new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign, which will be held through Friday, Dec. 16. Non-perishable food items will be collected through Saturday, Dec. 31, for the New Hampshire Food Bank. Visitors who bring one item of food will receive $1 off regular admission price to the Center. Visitors who bring in two or more items of food will receive a 10-percent discount on purchases made in the Center's Science Store. Collection boxes are located at the front desk in the Science Store, and items can be dropped off Thursday through Sunday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 271-7827.

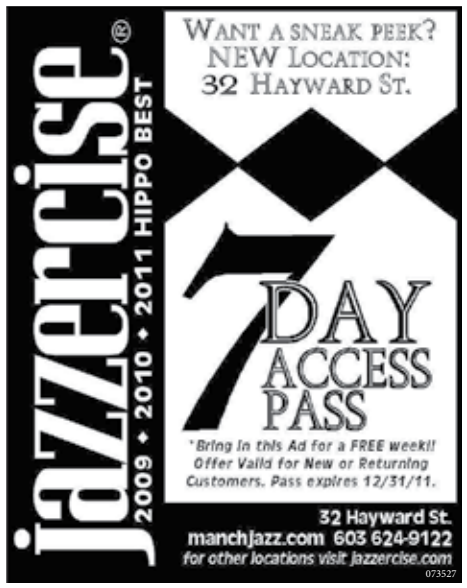
In the spotlight



Laugh it up, fuzzball

Who needs a reason? Health Promotions of Concord will feature two evenings in which attendees will learn how unconditional laughter will improve health, mental outlook and spiritual joy. The two evenings of cheer will take place at Health Promotions (49 South Main St., Concord) on Monday, Dec. 19, and Monday, Dec. 26, at 6 p.m. Call 224-5768 or e-mail center.of.laughter@aol.com.

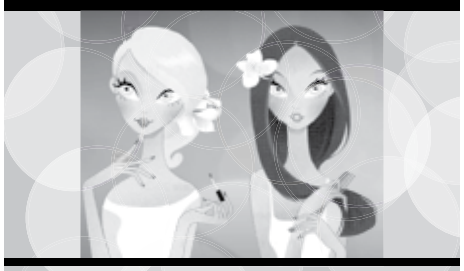








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Have fun and learn

Camps keep children busy during holiday vacation

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



Chloe has been hard at work at Beck's Art Express creating beautiful works of art.

Children are marking X's on their December calendars as they count down to presents, for Santa, and to their week of freedom from smelly school buses and homework.

Fortunately for kids and parents, a number of local museums and organizations are offering holiday camps to keep kids busy and out of trouble during that week.

Artsy kids can get the full holiday camp experience at **Beck's Arts Express** (5 Pine St. Extension, Mill Annex #6) in Nashua.

"This will be a fun, arts and crafts kind of camp," said Rebecca Fredrickson, owner of Beck's Arts Express. "There will be a mix of different activities, and the kids will have the opportunity to use a variety of different materials. The activities we hold in the camp are also less formal than the regular classes offered here," Fredrickson said.

Participants will get their hands mucky in projects involving plaster, polymer and clay, and printmaking, having fun while experimenting with new ways to be creative. Fredrickson estimated that the children will take part in six or seven different projects over the three-day camp, which includes creating a mask and a wind chime.

"Involving children in creative activities enhances their imaginations, creativity, and problem-solving skills," Fredrickson said. "The arts can also be used to connect subject areas and as a tool for learning."

Rebecca Fredrickson will be holding the camp from Tuesday, Dec. 27, to Thursday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost of the three-day camp is $75. Call 781-910-3438 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com. Visit www.artsexpressnh.com.

For day trips, check out **Concord Parks and Recreation** Department's December Day-Cations. Children in grades 3 through 6 can register for one or all of the day-cations offered Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Thursday, Dec. 29, all of which cost $38 per day for Concord residents and $48 per day for non-residents. Tuesday's trip features tubing at Gunstock and games at the Green Street Community Center; on Wednesday, kids will play at the competition complex at Cannon Mountain; and on Thursday, participants will enjoy bowling and a movie. Children can be dropped off at 8:30 a.m. and picked up at 4:30 p.m. at the Green Street Community Center (39 Green St., Concord) for each day of activities. Concord Parks and Recreation requests that participants register before Friday, Dec. 16, which can be done by calling 225-8690 or visiting www.concordnh.gov.recreation.

The **Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St., Dover) will host a two-day Robotics and Cars workshop for ages 6 to 9, brought to the museum once again by LegoYourMind. Campers will configure robots and build motorized cars to maneuver through obstacle courses. They'll learn how to "gear up" and "gear down," building machines for speed and towing power.

"It's a great way to get children focused on something during vacation," said Jane Bard, the educational director at the Museum. "This is the first time we've provided camps during winter vacation, and we're excited to be able to provide this alternative for families." The program is led by experienced educators who are certified teachers, and they bring a lot of enthusiasm to the program. "It's one thing to be at home playing with your LEGOs, but it's quite another having a challenge to complete. Most kids also don't have access to the number of LEGO products, gears and robotic tools to work with that LegoYourMind provides," Bard said.

The cost for this program is $120 per child, and pre-registration is required. Sign up early, because spots in LegoYourMind workshops typically fill up quickly. Call 742-2002 to register or visit www.childrens-museum.org.

The **Seacoast Science Center** (570 Ocean Blvd., Rye) will be holding two different holiday camps. The Seaside Safari Vacation, Monday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is for children in grades K-5 and offers outdoor activities and virtual field trips to the Galapagos, the Everglades, coral reefs, Death Valley and the Amazon via video conferences. The camp offers extended care for parents who work longer days. The cost is $55 per day or $250 for the week.

"It's great to get kids outdoors, exploring their natural curiosities. They get a better understanding and appreciation of the world around them," said Karen Provazza, Seacoast Science Center marketing director. "It also gives them the chance to foster a sense of stewardship."

For children age 3 to 5, SSC offers Holiday Treks for Tots, also Monday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 30, but only from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Youngsters will learn how animals survive cold winters by visiting salt marshes and observing animals in their natural habitat. The cost for this program is $35 per day or $150 per week. Call 436-8043 ext. 16 or visit www.seacoastsciencecenter.org/programs/daycamp for either camp.

Know of a vacation week camp not listed here? Let us know at listings@hippopress.com. And keep an eye on our listings and spotlights in this section for updates to the vacation camp list.

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Holiday gifts for gardeners

Books, tools and accessories to get them through winter

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com



Gardeners are easy to shop for. We all need the practical (rubber-palmed stretchy garden gloves, watering wands, garden scissors, plant labels) and appreciate the whimsical (a nice garden gnome to surprise the grandkids). Gardening books keep us occupied during the long winter nights, and garden tools keep us dreaming of perfect peonies. Here are some suggestions for the gardener you love.

This year I discovered **Tubtrugs.** They are multipurpose, brightly colored, somewhat flexible containers made of food-grade plastic that I like to fill up with weeds. I also use them when harvesting veggies or carrying hand tools; you can fill one with water to soak a dry potted plant or wash a small dog. They are easy to carry — handholds are built in. They come in four sizes from about 4 gallons to about 20 gallons. I have the two smaller sizes, which cost $11 to $14. Available at your local garden center or from www.tubtrugs.com.

As much as I don't like plastic, I found another plastic product that is very handy: an **Oxo brand watering can**. As with other Oxo products, I find it not only functional, but handsome, and these come in a variety of colors. I like that the spout lets you see the water level inside when filling it up, and it rotates for storage (snuggling up, sort of, against the reservoir). The rose, which breaks the stream of water into a spray, is very fine for watering delicate plants, but I often just pull that off and water directly from the slender spout. They come in two sizes: 2-gallon ($28) and an indoor model that is just 3 quarts ($18). Available locally or online.

Each year I have to tout my favorite weeding tool, the **CobraHead Weeder**, as it works so darn well, and I have met so many gardeners who just love it. It is a single piece of steel with a small, eye-shaped head and a curved handle. It has a nice bright blue, recycled plastic handle. It gets under weeds to pull from below while I tug on the topside; I use it when planting, too, stirring up the soil and teasing out grass roots. I like that it serves lefties as well as righties and is light enough to please elderly weeders as well as big lunks like me. Cost? About $25. Available locally or at www.cobrahead.com or 1-866-962-6272.

Books help get gardeners through the winter. We read and plan when we can't weed and plant. I recently got a very handsome, glossy-photo book by Jeremy and Emily Gettle, co-owners of Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. He is quite a character — he started at age 3 and was growing two acres of vegetables by age 18. He started his own seed company when he was just 22 years old and, now 33, he has quite a large operation — and a book.

The book, ***The Heirloom Life Gardener: the Baker Creek Way of Growing Your Own Food Easily and Naturally***, is interesting and full of personal stories and anecdotes by Jeremy. He is opinionated, which I like, too. Best of all, it has a directory of garden vegetables that not only tells you how he grows them, but guides you to save your own seeds. It's $30 in hardcover.

Another book I like is ***Ancestral Plants: A Primitive Skills Guide to Important Edible, Medicinal and Useful Plants of the Northeast*** by Arthur Haines. This is a fascinating technical book for survivalists, among others. It tells you not only about edible and medicinal plants, but which ones to use for making your own rope or for starting a fire without matches. Haines is young (41) and a serious scholar, having just written a 1,000-page taxonomy of plants.

Haine's book gives information available in no other book I have found. So, for example, he tells you to eat eastern prickly gooseberries one at a time so that the crushing of the berry is done with teeth, not the palate (to avoid the prickles), and that it is high in Vitamin C, antioxidants and pectin so it can easily be made into jam. Each plant has at least two excellent color photos and two pages of text. The book is $23 in paper available locally or from www.anaskimin.org.

Each year I find some nice products from Gardeners Supply Company in Burlington, Vt. (www.gardeners.com or 888-833-1412). This year I like their **pesto storage cubes** for freezing pesto or tomato paste. They have attached lids, and fit into trays for storage. At $7.95 for eight cubes they are a good gift. I also like their **Root Storage Bin,** which costs $34.95. It is a sturdy wire bin lined with jute fabric designed to hold carrots, beets etc. in a cool dark cellar. It allows you to layer moist sand in it, keeping the veggies from drying out. It fits in a fridge I use for storing veggies. They also sell the Tubtrugs mentioned above. Since Gardeners Supply is an employee-owned company that supports lots of good causes, I enjoy supporting them, too.

I've been using **LED lights** this fall to pamper my houseplants, and I find my plants are much healthier this year. Best of all, for 42 watts of electricity I am getting the equivalent of 250 watts of light, and the spectrum of light, the company says, is just right for making plants happy. I got mine from Sunshine Systems (www.sunshine-systems.com or 866-576-5868). Each unit costs about $150 and is suitable for illuminating 5 square feet of plant space. The lights are designed to let you connect several together, which is handy.

Lastly, as an author I would be remiss if I didn't mention my own new book: ***Organic Gardening (Not Just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide*** (Bunker Hill Publishing). It's a collection of my best writings from the past 10 years, organized around the calendar year. It's $17.50 from your local bookstore or from my website (www.Gardening-guy.com).

So give Santa a hand. Go get something nice for the gardener in your family. And remember to try buying local first: local bookstores, local garden centers — only buy on the Web as a last resort! And Happy Holidays to you all.

Henry Homeyer is the author of four gardening books. His website is www.Gardening-guy.com.

CAR TALK BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Does gas gauge read correctly after tank was dented?



Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm sending this anonymously because I don't want my friends to know what a bonehead I am. I went out to the driveway to replace the rear brake shoes on my daughter's '98 Honda Civic EX. I positioned my floor jack under the rear cross member, but did not jack it up. I then went into the garage to get my jack stands, and placed them beside the car. Without checking the jack, I started to jack up the car. Something didn't seem right, because the car hardly lifted for the amount I jacked. I looked under the car and saw that the floor jack had rolled forward a few inches and the saddle was pushing up on the fuel tank, which was now dented in! I quickly jacked down the car, but the damage was done. I drove the car through the neighborhood and up onto the interstate to confirm that it still would run fine. It now has more than a thousand miles on it since I dented the fuel tank, and it runs with no problems. My question: Is the fuel gauge still accurate, or is it incorrect because of the dent in the tank? I have gotten my daughter to refill the tank whenever the gauge registers half a tank. It takes about six gallons to fill it up from there. My daughter wants to drive beyond half a tank on the gauge to see if the gauge is accurate down to empty. I don't think she should do this. What do you guys think? By the way, I did finally replace the brake shoes, but she doesn't let me work on her car any longer. — Joey

TOM: Don't worry, Joey. Your secret is safe with us. I mean, how many Joeys can there be with daughters who own green '98 Honda Civic EXs with bad gas gauges writing from Maple Street in Tallahassee, Fla.?

RAY: With the last name Sawyer?

TOM: We made that up, by the way, readers. Joey, I think your daughter has to try the experiment. And you need to be following her with a five-gallon gas container.

RAY: This car was still using a metal tank in 1998. So you crumpled it. But you probably didn't deform it too badly; otherwise, it would be leaking now.

TOM: These tanks can take a pretty good beating. I mean, they're not designed to support a 2,500-pound car on the saddle of a floor jack, but they do get hit by rocks and road debris and snow banks, and they manage to survive all that stuff.

RAY: What you need to find out is how much you've reduced the volume of the tank, and whether you've interfered with the operation of the float, which tells the gauge how much fuel is left. And there's only one way to do that, Joey.

TOM: If you really wanted to be a good dad, you wouldn't even make your daughter participate. You'd tap one of your buddies (who now knows what a bonehead you are because you wrote to us) and have him follow you while you drove your daughter's car.

RAY: Here's what you'll do. This car has a tank that holds about 12 gallons. You know the gauge works fine between full and half-full, because you know that accounts for six gallons. You also know how many miles that gets you. Let's say, for the sake of argument, that you get 150 miles out of the first half of the tank.

TOM: So you want drive another 150 miles, or until the tank is empty. Along the way, you want to correlate the mileage with the reading on the fuel gauge.

RAY: So when you've driven 75 miles, is the gauge reading a quarter-full? If so, you know it's accurate to the one-quarter mark.

TOM: If the car runs out of gas before you expect it to, you'll want to note what happens. Did the gauge drop suddenly from a quarter-full to E? Did it stay on a quarter-full and just run out of gas?

RAY: And with this newfound, scientifically derived information, you'll be able to tell your daughter exactly what to expect, and when she needs to fill up from now on.

TOM: And by the way, Joey, if the car runs out of gas as soon as you leave the house, you'll know what you're getting her for Christmas this year.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 2009 Nissan Cube. I take the car to the dealer for oil changes. I always use synthetic, but at the last oil change, they put in regular oil by mistake. I drove the car for 3,000 miles and then asked them to put in synthetic oil. Now my husband says that I have "ruined" the engine by switching the oils back and forth. Is this true? He says that I immediately should have asked them to drain out the regular oil and replace it with synthetic before I drove the car away. What do you think? — Mary

TOM: I think he's got his head up his oil drain, Mary.

RAY: When synthetic oils first came out, we heard rumors that you shouldn't switch from regular oil to synthetic, or vice versa. But we never saw any proof that this was more than a rumor.

TOM: And now several of the major oil companies sell synthetic blends, which are what? Mixtures of regular oil and synthetic! So they mix them right at the factory.

RAY: So obviously, no harm is done by mixing them in your crankcase, or switching from one to another.

TOM: So drive happily, Mary. It sounds like the only thing you ruined here is your husband's credibility.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com. (c) 2011 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman.

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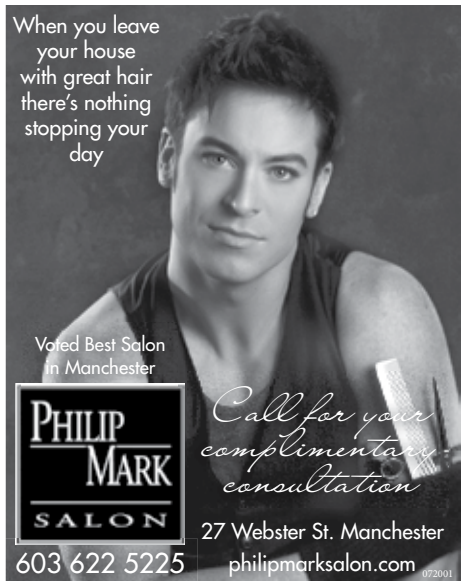


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VIGIL will host Mary Lee Sargent of NH Peace Action, who will talk about activism in her lifetime at this Winter Solstice Peace Vigil. Event is free, open to public, and will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 20, in front of the State House in Concord.

• **BEDFORD LIVING NATIVITY** on Fri., Dec. 23, at 5 p.m., at the Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Rd., Bedford). All are invited for this free event. Call 472-5841 or visit bedfordpresbyterian.org.

• **QUEEN CITY BALLROOM CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE** on Sat., Dec. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom (21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester). Sweet treats, hot, mulled cider, and holiday tunes to dance to. Singles and couples, and beginners welcome. Complimentary admission. Call 622-1500 or email QnCtyBalrm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **COMMUNITY OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** from Olde New England on Sat., Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Milford Oval. Traditional, outdoor Christmas Carol service. Complimentary hot drinks and refreshments served.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** at the Arlington St. United Methodist Church (63 Arlington St., Nashua) will be held Fri., Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service will begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Call 882-4663 or visit www.asumcn-nh.org.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways**
6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• **Beaver Brook Association**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org,

• **Charmingfare Farm**
Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill**
174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

• **Friends of Stark Park**
North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

• **Londonderry Trailways**
PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org

• **Manchester Historic Association**
129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

• **Massabesic Audubon Center**
26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org

• **McLane Center**
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org

• **Peabody Mill**
Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org

• **Seacoast Science Center**
570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

• **Society for the Protection of NH Forests**
224-9945, spnhf.org

Animals/insects/plants

• **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** takes place on Sat., Dec. 17, and consists of citizen scientists in 21 bird count areas who survey the number of birds in a particular area to help assess the health of bird population and guide conservation action. Call Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 or email him at rbielawski@mac.com. Visit http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count.

In the spotlight



Let's ice skate!

Ice skating season is here and in Manchester there's public open skating at JFK Memorial Coliseum at 303 Beech St. on Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m., $5 for adults, $3 for seniors and children under 12. Skate rentals are available.

There's also public skating at Tri-Town Ice Arena in Hooksett — where the Monarchs practice — on Friday, Dec. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 7 to 8:50 p.m. and again Sunday, Dec. 18, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is $6 (or buy a card worth 10 admissions for $50), and skate rentals are available for $4. The schedule is subject to change, so check www.tritownicearena.com. Tri-Town is at 311 West River Road, 485-1100.

To the south, in Nashua, Conway Ice Arena at 5 Stadium Drive will hold public skating on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is $5 (or $40 for a book of 10 passes), and skate rentals are available for $3. (On Saturday, Dec. 17, the Gate City Figure Skating Club holds its annual holiday show at 1:30 p.m. at the Arena — go watch and cheer on local skaters.) And in Salem, the Ice Center at 60 Lowell Road, 893-4448, has public skating on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 3 to 4:20 p.m. and from 9:20 to 10:40 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 12:40 to 2 p.m. Ice Center admission is $6 for adults, $5 for ages 5-12, free for 4 and younger, with $5 skate rentals available.

For those in the Lakes Region, the New Hampton Lindsay Arena (1 Main St., New Hampton) is offering a free open skate and Learn to Skate program Sundays, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. Children under 8 must be accompanied at the rink by an adult, and all participants must wear helmets. The skating sessions are free and will be supervised by experienced New Hampton School faculty members. Sticks and pucks will not be allowed, and it is requested that children are dropped off and picked up promptly. Pre-registration is suggested; call 677-3445 or e-mail Rosemary Brewster at rbrewster@newhampton.org.

• **BIRD BANDING OPEN HOUSE** on Sat., Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) allows visitors to drop in anytime during the morning to learn about common birds that are winter visitors, as well as why birds are banded. No charge. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

• **WINTER BIRDING EXCURSION** at the Squam lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) on Sun., Jan. 22, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., is being held to search for the hardy bird species that spend their winters along the N.H. and Mass. seacoast. Led by Science Center Executive Director Ian MacLeod. Through the day, visit Seabrook Harbor, the Salsbury Beach State Reservation and Plum Island to search for ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and more. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Admission is $30/member or $40/non-member. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS!** is a presentation for pre-school students brought by the Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Wed., Jan. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1 to 2 p.m. From the cardinal to the chickadee, lots of birds stay in New Hampshire during the winter time. Admission is $5 per family, and advanced registration with payement is required. Call 626-3474 and visit amoskeagfishways.org.

Astronomy

• **SPACE DECORATIONS** can be made on Thus., Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. for 3-4 year olds. Admission $10 for adults, $5 for children.

• **HOW WE CONQUERED THE AIR** celebrates the 108th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight (Dec. 17), with a presentation by David Price, associate dean of aviation at Bridgewater State University, on Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission $9 (seniors/students $8, children $6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

• **THE MYSTERY OF THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM** presented by retired Raytheon chemist Richard Willoughby on Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission $9 (seniors/students $8, children $6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

Gifts for the geeky

Last-minute presents for the socially awkward

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



ZOMG, it's a week 'til Christmas and you just remembered your aunt's cousin's roommate's daughter, who totally fixed your computer this summer after you spilled a margarita on the keyboard. She'll be at the family party, so what can you get? For her and closer relations of the nerd variety, a few suggestions:

• **Screen protectors:** Everything nowadays has a touchscreen. One little bit of dirt gets between a finger and the display and there's a potential scratch situation. Glass is being made stronger on newer phones and tablets, but some extra protection can't hurt. Find out what your geek owns and pick up custom-cut plastic stick-ons at any electronics box store (or usually for much less online).

• **Multi-tools:** There's the expensive Leatherman, the classic Swiss Army Knife, and tons of other brands of pocket-sized do-it-all tools. None of them really do it *all*, or else there wouldn't be a market for power saws and drills and stuff, but for basic fidgeting, a small multi-tool is perfect. The latest fad is the **Kelvin.23**, which packs a hammer, tape measure, level, LED flashlight, magnet and 16 screwdriver bits into a package the size of a large-ish screwdriver handle. $5 of the $25 purchase price even goes to microloans for female entrepreneurs in developing countries.

• **SuperFly Remote Control Shark:** A shark that you pilot through the water would be cool. But how about one that FLOATS IN THE FREAKING AIR? Yes. Yes it does. It floats around through the magical properties of helium, exactly like a blimp, but in the coveted shark form factor. Sure, you'll have to refill it from time to time, and some experts say we've already reached Peak Helium (like Peak Oil, when attainable supplies become rapidly more expensive to develop) — but if we're going to irresponsibly deplete all our resources, I want to do it with a $35 floating freaking shark.

• **A new monitor:** Even if your favorite geek totes a laptop, there are plenty of times they'll just be sitting around the house. Brand new monitors measuring around 20 inches with the coveted full HD resolution of 1920 x 1080 have been going on sale for about $100 recently. Even 22- and 23-inchers have drifted toward this price point, though they sell out quickly.

• **ASUS Eee Pad Transformer Prime:** At $499, this tablet would be worth it just to own technology with both "Transformer" and "Prime" in the name without making Michael Bay any richer. But it's also the first tablet featuring the NVIDIA Tegra 3 quad-core processor. It also sports a Super IPS+ display, which basically means you can crank up the brightness wicked high so the screen is usable outside, at the expense of battery life. The keyboard dock that extends the battery life is another $149, so you can save that for the next birthday.

• **Gift cards:** OK, kind of lame and much too obvious for a gift guide, but really, nerds can be picky. A USB 2.0 hub is not even close to the same as a USB 3.0 controller, and even nerds with advanced social skills might not be able to contain their disappointment. Ask where they shop and put exactly your budget on a gift card. Bam. Done.

• **Wrist brace:** All geeks have carpal tunnel. All.

You can STILL give someone a link to twitter.com/CitizenjaQ.

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• **LIBERTY BOOK STORE** 75 Allison St. 223-0335.
• **PANERA BREAD** 75 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8966, panerabread.com. Free.
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• **THE RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY,** 194 Derry Road, Hudson 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
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• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 2 Court St., Nashua. nashualibrary.org/WiFi_FAQ.htm. Free.
• **NASHUA WIFI PROJECT** Main Street, Nashua. Free.
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. **PANERA BREAD** 8 Spit Brook Rd., 891-2133 and 590 Amherst St., 821-6021, panerabread.com. Free.
. **THE PEDDLER'S DAUGHTER** 48 Main St., Nashua, 603-821-7535
• **SHORTY'S**, 328 Nashua Mall, Nashua, 882-4070, shortysmex.com. Free.
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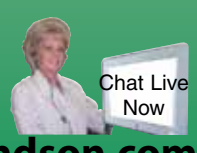
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073602

Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **The doors are open:** The Copper Door Restaurant is now open at 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com. The dining room is open lunch daily from 11:30 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m., and for dinner Sunday through Thursday from 4:30 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 4:30 to 11 p.m. The bar is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Entree selections include a Pinot Noir Braised French Rib, Caul Fat Wrapped Meatloaf, Cioppino and the Tuscan Pizza, topped with lemon-basil pesto, Greek olives, farmhouse chevre, tomato and pecorino romano cheese.

• **Getting' crafty in Dover:** The Barley Pub, 328 Central Ave., Dover, 742-4226, barleypub.com, will hold a local artists market, featuring an estimated 15 artisans and crafters, on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

• **Celebrate the holidays, support local services:** The Mill Fudge Factory, 2 Central St., Bristol, 744-0405, themillfudgefactory.com, will hold its 3rd annual benefit concert and holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Event goers will receive a free scoop of homemade ice cream with every sandwich or salad order, and a surprise gift just for attending. The Uncle Steve Band will perform. There will be a suggested admission price of $7 at the door but donations of food or clothing (in good condition) will also be accepted for Bristol Community Services.

• **Still time to order Christmas dinner:** The Common Man, 25 Water St., Concord, 228-9469; 304 DW Highway, Merrimack, 429-9469; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 96 State St., Portsmouth, 334-6225, and The Lakehouse, 281 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, is taking orders for holiday meals until Monday, Dec. 19. Customers have their choice of Honey Dijon Baked Ham or Roast Turkey. Each meal will be served with mashed potatoes, stuffing, butternut squash, green beans with almonds, dinner rolls and a slice of apple pie. The meal costs $16.95 and orders must be placed at the location at which you wish to pick up the meal. Orders must be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **It's not too late to order sweets, either:** Just Like Mom's Pastries, 353 Riverdale Road, Weare, 529-6667, justlikemomspastries.com, will take cake and pie orders until Monday, Dec. 19, for pick-up before noon on Saturday, Dec. 24. The bakery's menu features more than 25 varieties of pies and 30 cakes. Cookies, brownies and breakfast pastries will also be available for order.

• **Have a very merry vegan holiday:** A vegan cooking class and dinner will be held at Pines Community Center, 61 Summer St., Northfield, on Friday, Dec. 16, at 5:30 p.m. The hands-on class will be led by vegan members of the community who will demonstrate how to prepare shredded carrot salad with lemon-poppy dressing, squash bisque, cran-

Continued on page 49

Gifts for the cook

Food, drink and utensils ready for wrapping

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

You've bought, or chopped down, your Christmas tree and have adorned it with colorful bulbs and lights but now comes the hard part: what do you put underneath it? A few local shops have offered some suggestions for the foodie in your life this holiday season.

Fill the stocking of the cook in your life with **Natural Loofah Kitchen Scrubbers** ($4.99) from Things Are Cooking (74 N. Main St., Concord, 225-8377, thingsarecooking.com). The eco-friendly, biodegradable dishwashing companions come on a rope for easy storage and can be found in shapes such as ladybug, penguin, flower and tomato. **Pot clips** ($6.99) are also a new offering at the kitchen shop and give chefs, both professional and amateur, the ability to clip their spoon on to the pot they are using.

"You always wonder where you're going to put that spoon," said Diane Beauregard, owner of Things Are Cooking. "Well, there you go."

Glacier Rocks ($16.99) are one of a handful of booze-friendly stocking stuffers found at Things Are Cooking. The rocks are made of soapstone and can be kept in the freezer, then taken out and used as ice so as not to dilute a good scotch, Beauregard said. The rocks come in packs of six and include a bag for easy storage. For the wine-lover on your Christmas list, the shop sells the **Vinturi Essential Wine Aerator** ($39.99), which helps develop the flavors of wine, and the **Corksicle** ($23.99), a cork attached to a long icicle-like tube that, when frozen, keeps bottles of white wine cool without diluting it.

Another chilly gift is appropriate for both children and adults. The **Zoku Quick Pop Maker** ($39.99) makes homemade popsicles in six minutes (the base must be frozen before the ingredients are added). In addition to selling the base, Things Are Cooking sells Zoku character kits, which allow the user to decorate their homemade pops, plus tool kits, extra sticks and a Zoku cookbook.

"A lot of people like the Zoku because they like knowing what their kids' pops are made of," Beauregard said.

Big-ticket items for foodies sold at Things Are Cooking this holiday season include the **Cuisinart Soup Blender & Cooker** ($199.99), which eliminates the messy transfer from the blender to the pot or slow cooker in the soup making process, and **Le Creuset Mini Cocottes** ($88). The petite individual casserole dishes, complete with their own covers, come in sets of four and are a great gift for your favorite host or hostess: "I love them," Beauregard said of the 8-ounce ceramic cookware. "They're just adorable." The set also comes with a cookbook filled with 25 sweet and savory recipes to create in the cocottes.

Next door at Butter's Fine Food and Wine (70 N. Main St., Concord, 225-5995, buttersfindfood.com), owner Kristy Stephens Ammann is continuously filling her shelves with new products for the holidays.

For the specialty food lover in your life, **Rabitos Royale Chocolate Fig Bonbons** ($18.99 a box) from Spain only come around once a year, and that time is now.



Milk chocolate sardines at Butter's Fine Food and Wine in Concord (top left). Glacial Rocks from Things Are Cooking in Bedford (middle left). A Nostalgia Candy Mix Box from Cupcakes 101 in Bedford (bottom left). Le Creuset Mini Cocottes at Things Are Cooking in Concord (upper right). The Zoku Quick Pop Maker at Things Are Cooking in Concord (bottom right). Angel Roy photo.

"These are amazing," Ammann said. Other good gifts for the chocolate connoisseur include milk chocolate sardines ($11.99), wrapped in fish-like foil and presented in a metal tin similar to the ones real sardines are packed in, made by French chocolatier Michel Cluizel, and **Vosges Haut Chocolat** designer bars ($7.99 each). The Chicago-made designer chocolate bars are offered at Butter's in Blood Orange Caramel (hibiscus flower, blood orange caramel, Campari and dark chocolate), Black Salted Caramel (black Hawaiian sea salt, burnt sugar caramel and dark chocolate) and Barcelona (hickory smoked almond and sea salt).

Rustichella d'Abruzzo has also released its annual line of **Panettone**, Italian fruitbread, in classic, cherry and chocolate and fig varieties. The cost of the Panettone, which Ammann said "make amazing French toast," ranges from $30 to $35. Or you can pair many cheeses offered by the pound from the case at Butter's with ***Mastering Cheese*** by Max McCalman and David Gibbons ($40). "It's a beautiful reference book filled with really interesting information," Ammann said. "It could be a good side table book."

For the 21-plus crowd, Butter's offers a **Drink Skinny Margarita gift pack** ($30), which features three flavors of the Tilton-made mix: classic, pomegranate blueberry and pineapple mango. "If you cut the pomegranate blueberry mix with red wine it's like a spiced wine," Ammann said. The shop also sells **Fuller's Vintage Ale** ($12.99), a beer that, like wine, gets better with age.

Looking to add some nostalgia to this holiday season? Give a sweet trip down memory lane in the form of **Nancy Adams Nostalgia Candy Mix** gift boxes. Each box ($9 at Cupcakes 101, 132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford) is filled with a minimum of 14 treats that were favorites of the decade: 1950s (Necco wafers, Chuckles, Atomic Fireballs, Bit O' Honey, wax bottles and candy buttons), 1960s (jawbreakers, red hots, wax lips, licorice sticks), 1970s (Blow Pops, Pixy Sticks, Fun Dip, Sour Patch Kids, Pop Rocks, Swedish Fish, Bubbalicious and Rain-Blo gum) and 1980s (Sweetarts, Ring Pops, Runts, Bubble Tape, Laffy Taffy, Starburst). "These bring people back to their childhood," said Cupcakes 101 co-owner Andy Thibodeau. For an old-time stocking stuffer, Cupcakes 101 sells **Sugar Daddies** weighing in at one pound, for $12. "They're ginormous," Thibodeau said. "No one will ever be able to eat the whole thing."

For the organic food lover, gardener or farmer in your life, the Northeast Organic Farmers Association is offering **gift memberships** this season. Individual memberships cost $35 (annually) and include a bumper sticker, quarterly newsletters, discounts on NOFA-NH conferences, workshops, vendor booths, bulk orders and newsletter advertisements, among other things. Visit nofanh.org/membership to apply.

Tasty pages

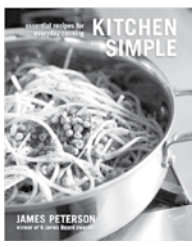
Books for cooks of all stripes

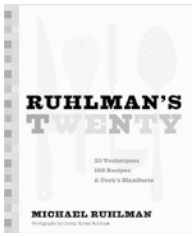
By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

There is no such thing as "enough cookbooks."

Whether your kitchen-dwelling friends cook everything from one ancient Good Housekeeping tome or have a library of books dedicated to specific cheeses or meats, there's always room for another collection of tasty ideas. Here are a few of the books that have come through the Hippo offices in recent months that could make some home cook very happy.









For the gung-ho beginner: After Mark Bittman's all-purpose masterpiece *How to Cook Everything*, the second place I'd recommend anyone newly interested in cooking should turn is Cook's Illustrated. This delightfully nerdy magazine takes a very scientific approach to cooking and while its recipes aren't always easy they are pretty foolproof. ***Cook's Illustrated Cookbook*** (2011, America's Test Kitchen) is therefore one of those books that deserves a spot on the counter. Looking for an explanation of pancakes? You won't get any glossy pancake photos here but you will get four recipes, each with a "Why This Recipe Works" tutorial. Master these and you can probably figure out how to make any pancakes you'd like. The cookbook walks you through every main category of cooking and baking with the same approach. For home cooks who are skilled in the basics, ***Kitchen Simple*** by James Peterson (2011, Ten Speed Press) might be a good next step. Here, you use those basic cooking skills to pull together meals — take the Roast Chicken (this recipe, like many in this book, gets it done in under an hour), and pair it with the Swiss Chard with Garlic and Anchovies from the Vegetables chapter. Or skip to the last chapter and mix up My Favorite Limeade to serve with Tuscan Bread and Tomato Salad while you sit in front of the fireplace and pretend it's summer. ***Ruhlman's Twenty*** by Michael Ruhlman (2011, Chronicle Books) goes even further. A new cook who has been bitten by the knives-and-saute bug via *Top Chef* and the like will appreciate the method and technique-focused approach to food here. Ruhlman brings a chef-y approach to home cooking in this book with chapters like "Salt," "Acid," "Soup" and "Fry." In "Egg," you get a discussion of what eggs do, why you use them, how they change a dish, and then you get recipes that highlight different properties of and ways of using the egg, such as Classic New York Cheesecake, Mayonnaise and even a Whiskey Sour. Another good place for a beginning cook to start is with ***Kitchen on Fire!: Mastering the Art of Cooking in 12 Weeks or Less*** by Olive Said and Chef MikeC (2011, DaCapo). One of the most significant developments in my own cooking abilities came after I took a class on knife skills. I learned the correct way to hold a knife and to dice an onion. The book, which teaches you dicing and much more, is based on cooking classes the authors hold in San Francisco.

For the Food Network fan: The Food Network's roster of shows includes quite a few killer chefs and strong home cooks. One of those never-say-die chefs is Anne Burrell, who has competed at the side of Mario Batali in Iron Chef stadium (as well as in this season's *The Next Iron Chef* and in an all-star version of *Chopped*) and who has tried to teach her craft to the *Worst Cooks in America*. If she could make a better cook out of those people, her ***Cook Like a Rock Star*** (2011, Clarkson Potter) can probably make a better cook out of you. In part, the genius of the book is that each recipe starts with its *mis en place*, that is with a very strong suggestion that you lay out all the ingredients before you dive in to making Rack of Lamb and Hazelnut Cake with Nutella Mousse. Ellie Krieger of *Healthy Appetite* pulls off a miracle almost as wondrous as turning lousy cooks into good cooks: she makes healthy food delicious. ***Comfort Food Fix*** (2011, John Wiley & Sons) is her latest attempt at healthy-ing up your kitchen. What I've always liked about Krieger's recipes is that she doesn't use any weird or fakey ingredients — real sugar, real cream, real cheese are all among the ingredients. Here, she tackles things like chocolate pudding (turning a 420-calorie-per-serving recipe into a 180-calorie one), cassoulet (860 to 540), buffalo wings (770 to 240) and chicken parmesan (630 calories to 390) and looks for openings to say take a little cheese from this and bake-instead-of-fry that and make family favorites healthier.





For the would-be restaurateur: Restaurant cookbooks can be tricky. It's hard to capture all the glamour of the restaurant experience and still produce a book full of recipes that someone without a sous chef can make. These books, however, both pay special attention to producing recipes that, while not fast and easy, are still attainable in a home kitchen. ***Bobby Flay's Bar Americain Cookbook*** (2011, Clarkson Potter) represents the chef's fine-dining approach to regional cuisine. You might not whip up Crispy Squash Blossoms (filled with pulled pork) for your next last-minute get-together, but dishes like Buttermilk Fried Chicken with Wild Rice Waffles or Sweet Potato Pie with Cinnamon Crush Ice Cream definitely seem tackle-able some weekend when you have the time and are looking for something special. ***The Moz-***

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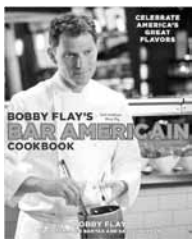
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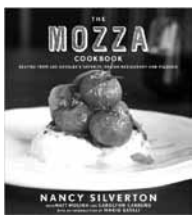


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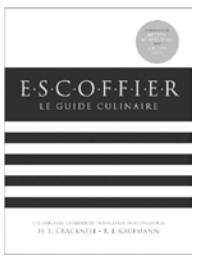
za Cookbook, by Nancy Silverton (2011, Alfred A. Knopf) warns you up front that the recipes are not always short but are worth diving in to. The recipes are meant to give you enough information to execute them well, Silverton explains. With dishes like a pizze blanche (featuring gorgonzola dolce, fingerling potatoes, radicchio and rosemary), grilled quail wrapped in pancetta with sage and honey, and strawberry and fig jam crostate with meyer lemon panna cotta and saba, all that reading seems completely worth it.





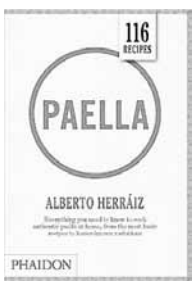
For the exotic cook: The publishing house Phaidon has put out some truly beautiful books dedicated to international cuisine in the last few years. These books are good-looking on the outside and lovely and encyclopedic on the inside. Two recent ones include ***Paella***, by Alberto Herraiz (2011) and ***Tuscany*** (2011). *Paella* is a marvel in its laser-like focus on one dish. The book explains the basics of this rice-based Spanish dish, including an entire chapter dedicated to what might be considered paella condiments (stocks, sauces, oils, sofritos). Then it gets into the different possible ways to prepare the rice, cooking paella outdoors and variations on ingredients from the classic blend of seafood. In *Tuscany*, the focus is on the region, with chapters on towns and areas within Tuscany. If you're dreaming of a trip to Italy, this might be the place to start, as it examines what is special about each area's cuisine and gives a year-round calendar of food festivals (anyone up for the chocolate fair in Florence in January?). Fans of local Greek festivals can fill their days between now and the return of festival season in spring with ***Kokkari: Contemporary Greek Flavors***, by Erik Cosselmon and Janet Fletcher (2011, Chronicle Books). Expand your knowledge of Greek fare beyond gyros and spanakopeta with this book from the San Francisco restaurant of the same name. You get a discussion of ingredients and their place in Greek cuisine followed by recipes for such delights as Persimmon & Pomegranate Salad with Candied Walnuts; Grilled Calamari Stuffed with Feta, Mint & Orange; a truly beautiful-looking Moussaka, and Kalamata Pita, another definition for the term "Greek pizza." And don't overlook that cookbook classic, ***Escoffier: Le Guide Culinaire*** (2011, Wiley) an updated English translation of which came out this year. George Auguste Escoffier laid out the rules of French cuisine in this book, which was fired published in 1903, according to a press release. The book is a fascinating read that really brought out the Remy-from-*Ratatouille* love of cooking in me. For some cooks, the most foreign cuisine of all might be the regional cuisine of the U.S. ***The Great American Cookbook*** (2011, Rizzoli) is a revised version of the 1950s cookbook *How America Eats* by Clementine Paddleford. This new — sort of — version was adapted by Kelly Alexander. The "sort of" is that, as Alexander explains in the introduction, a few of the recipes have been left in their original "add a can of cream of mushroom soup" ladies social club state and a few of the kitchsier recipes remain, even as she slimmed, for example, the pie offerings. Every state is represented as part of its region's chapter. New Hampshire is represented by the likes of Oatmeal Bread, butterscotch and chocolate sauces, Mother Bowles's Custard Pie and Fluffy Pumpkin Pie.







For the veggie lover: Whether the cook on your list is a strict vegetarian or just a person with a big garden and a CSA share, these books will help him find new and exciting things to do with his harvest. For locals, a good place to start is ***The Maine Summers Cookbook***, by Linda Greenlaw and Martha Greenlaw (2011, Viking Studio). Since our farmers markets yield similar harvest, we too can enjoy Ginger-Bran Blueberry Muffins, Grilled Zucchini Pepper Salad, Eggplant Fritters with Tarragon Sour Cream and Mile-High Strawberry Pie. This is the second cookbook from the prolific swordfish boat captain (who wrote her first, *Recipes from a Very Small Island*, with her mother Martha as well). Vegetables have seldom looked more lovely or more elegant than in ***Plenty*** by Yotam Ottolenghi (2011, Chronicle Books). Another restaurant cookbook (after *Ottolenghi in London*), this book offers page after glorious page of simple-seeming recipes (marinated buffalo mozzarella and tomato, caramelized fennel with goat cheese) that you know if executed well can make a filet mignon seem ordinary. This is the perfect book for someone looking not just to cook more veggies but also to make them as elegant and special a part of the meal as any meat. Another book full of elegant ideas that is also beautiful to look at is another Phaidon entry, ***Vegetables from an Italian Garden: Season by Season Recipes*** (2011). Winter need not be glum with cauliflower flan, potato and broccoli pie or Brussels sprouts au gratin. Each season's section starts with a look at some of the ingredients you can expect to find in your garden (or at the farmers market) during those months and then offers a hearty helping of recipes for each. For the frugal cook, check out ***Wildly Affordable Organic,*** by Linda Watson (2011, DaCapo Lifelong). Watson offers strategies for shopping smart (menus are seasonal, which is the way to get the best deals on organic produce) and cooking smart (think: freezer). She might not convince you to completely change your diet for the new year,







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The holidays are a time for family, friends, fun, festivities, and of course, FOOD! With the many temptations of cookies, pies and indulgent rich foods this season, try these 10 tips to help manage your weight at your next holiday gathering:

1. Eat a snack before the party to curb your appetite and insure you won't show up hungry. An apple, a Dannon® yogurt cup, or a small salad is a great light choice.

2. Bring a low-fat holiday dish to the party. You will be happy knowing there is at least one dish you can enjoy without breaking your diet.

3. Head to the fruit, vegetables, lean meat, and whole-grain crackers. Use small plates to help control portions sizes.

4. Mingle more than you munch. Focus on family and friends, not food.

5. Stand away from the food table. Hovering near the food often leads to more eating.

6. Keep in mind that calories from drinks add up too. Try lighter versions of seasonal favorites, such as eggnog. Even hot beverages, such as flavored coffee or tea or spiced cider, can add a festive touch to the event.

7. Keep your hands occupied with a low-calorie drink in one and a plate of low-fat goodies in the other to keep you from snatching from the food table.

8. Chew gum after you finish eating. With fresh minty breath, you may be less likely to go back for seconds or thirds.

9. Delay dessert. If you wait 20 to 30 minutes after eating healthy foods, your craving for sweets may be less than when you first arrived.

10. If you are throwing the gathering, pick a time of day that does not revolve around a meal.

11. Go ahead and say yes. If you can't stop thinking about Cathy's famous pecan pie, then enjoy a small slice after a well-balanced meal and refrain from seconds. One slice will not destroy your diet, but eating half the pie will ultimately lead to feelings of guilt and frustration, not to mention weight gain.

Interested In Learning More?

Our registered dietitians hold complimentary classes, have on-the-sales-floor nutrition demonstrations and do healthy store tours.

BEDFORD
5 Colby Court, South River Road
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Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 3 to 6 p.m. No registration required.
Healthy Living Store Tour: Saturday, Dec. 17, noon to 1 p.m. or Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2 to 3 p.m. No registration required.

CONCORD
73 Fort Eddy Road
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
- Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 23, 3 to 6 p.m. No registration required.
- Free Healthy Living Store Tour: Thursday, Dec. 22, 2 to 5 p.m. Call 228-2060 to register.

MANCHESTER/HOOKSETT
79 Bicentennial Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
- Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Monday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration required.
- Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 644-2106 for info on next tour and to register.

LONDONDERRY
6 Hampton Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
- Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 23, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
- Healthy Living Store Tour: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2 to 5 p.m. Call 421-0921 to register.

MANCHESTER/EAST SIDE
859 Hanover St.
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
- Season Your Holiday with our Healthy Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 16, 1 to 4 p.m. No registration required.
- Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 624-4442 for info on next tour and to register.

MANCHESTER/SOUTH
201 John Devine Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
- Season Your Holiday with our Healthy Appetizers! Thursday, Dec. 15, 3 to 6 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No registration required.
- Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 626-4567 for info on next tour and to register.

NASHUA
175 Coliseum Avenue
- Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. No registration required.
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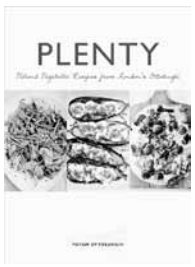
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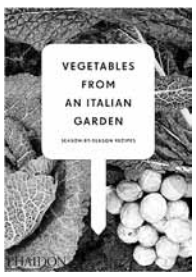
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but she does show how organic can be cost-effective and environmentally friendly and potentially tastier and healthier.

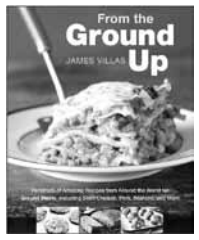
For the vegan: The library of vegan cookbooks is getting ever bigger and more specific — good for vegans and good for those cooking for vegans. ***Vegan Pie in the Sky*** by Isa Chandra Moskowitz & Terry Hope Romero (2011, Da Capo Press) offers more than just the fruit pies that spring to mind when you first think "vegan pie." First it tackles a variety of the (butterless) crusts and then it heads to fillings — fruit, sure, but also Cappuccino Mousse Pie, Luxury Pistachio Pudding Pie and Raspberry Lime Rickey Cheesecake. How do you get to "cheesecake"? A mix of cashews, banana and silken tofu, a trio used in several of the book's cheesecake recipes and an example of how the book goes way beyond just "apple" and "cherry" for its pie options. The vegan who enjoys entertaining can turn not just to these pie recipes but also to the recipes for appetizers, salads, side dishes, main entrees and brunch items in ***The Tipsy Vegan*** by John Schlimm (2011, Da Capo Lifelong). Each section comes with a cocktail. The recipes are party-ready and each contains a bit of happy itself — scotch in the Hubba-Hubba Baba Ganoush, vermouth in the Rockin' Roasted Potatoes with Racy Rosemary + Mustard, cognac in the Tres Chic French Toast.





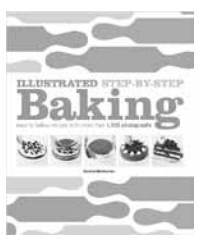


For the meat lover: That most workhorse of meats gets some attention in ***From the Ground Up*** by James Villas (2011, John Wiley & Sons Inc.), which offers uses for ground meats of all kind — beef, chicken, pork, seafood, lamb and more. Ground beef might not sound like the most exciting canvas on which to work but it has the benefit of being relatively inexpensive when compared to other cuts. Meatballs, meat loaf, hamburger and chili — sure, this book has that but it is often presented as more exotic fare, such as Greek meatballs. The book is full of such delights as Hungarian Fish Sausages, Zarela's Chiapas, Mexican Chicken Enchiladas, Norwegian Venison Croquettes and Shanghai Lion's Head. ***The Splendid Table's How to Eat Weekends*** by Lynne Rossetto Kasper and Sally Swift (2011, Clarkson Potter) isn't specifically about meat but its sumptuous recipes for dishes like Charred Lamb with Smoked Romesco, Cider-Glazed Chicken, Brown Sugar-Chile Flank and Pine-Smoked Chicken all speak to the glorious things you can do with meat, particularly when time is not an issue. *Weekends* is a sort of companion book to Kasper's earlier *The Splendid Table's How to Eat Supper* (and to the fun-with-food vibe of the radio show), which had an eye toward making the evening meal possible for those who had less than an hour to make it or make a phone call for takeout. Here, it's about making food because you enjoy eating it and you enjoy the process of creating it — whether that creation is a tart (like the Five-Nut Caramel Tart that sounds like a perfectly serviceable supper by itself) or a hot dish (like a Golden Pie of Winter Vegetables in Cinnamon Pastry — though the book does lovely things to meat it does offer several vegetarian and even a few vegan recipes) or a blow-them-away creation like Homemade Ricotta Gnocchi with Saffron Tomato Sauce. The recipes come with tips about how to use leftovers on the weekdays, wine suggestions, helpful cooking hints and stories and quotes from foodies and hosts throughout the years.

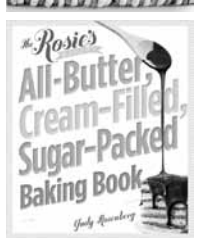




For the baker: For those who prefer baking to cooking, this is your season. With cookies, pies, breads and other holiday meal staples, bakers get as much of a chance to shine as savory cooks do. To help novices get started, check out ***Illustrated Step-By-Step Baking*** by Caroline Bretherton (2011, DK). They are not kidding about the "step-by-step" aspect of this collection of pretty much any basic baking recipe you'll need. A recipe for Vanilla Cream Cupcakes walks you through each step of batter preparation, baking, the making of the frosting, and the frosting of the cupcakes. Ditto Lemon and Blueberry Muffins. The book also ventures into what can seem like more advanced fare — Chocolate Fondants, Scones, Crostata di ricotta — but always with detailed photographs, detailed instructions or both. Master these recipes and you'll have more baking experience than many a *Top Chef* contestant. To someone who has the general baking skills down, give a book that revels in a true seasonal joy: cookies. ***The Art of the Cookie***, by Shelly Kaldunski, (2011, Weldon Owen) will help you blow chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin out of the water with Lemon Window Panes, Bird's Nests (complete with mini eggs), Chocolate Dipped Coconut Clouds, Jam Swirls and all manner of decorated sugar cookie. But for the entire dessert experience, check out ***The Rosie's Bakery All-Butter, Cream-Filled, Sugar-Packed Baking Book***, by Judy Rosenberg (2011, Workman Publishing). An earlier Rosenberg all-singing, all-dancing book was one of my first cookbook acquisitions, back when I was just a kid looking to kill an afternoon and ensure that there would be dessert. Her recipes are







a delight — delicious, as you'd suspect, but also easy to follow. She offers tips and basics of storage and serving. And there's variety — more than 250 recipes, which on a practical level means you get 18 recipes for brownies, about 30 recipes for bars and squares and a cookie section that includes "chewy crunchy," "crispy chompy," "cakey," "sandwiched together" and "holiday." With a book like this and plenty of sugar, flour and butter, you'll have a happy holiday indeed.

Christmas dining out

Some restaurants go big on the holiday and its eve

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

This year, set the cookies out for Santa (and don't forget the carrots for his reindeer!), then head to a local restaurant for Christmas Eve dinner or spent your Christmas Day feasting on a buffet of brunch or dinner. Have a very merry holiday meal.

Christmas Eve

• **The Airport Diner**, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com, will be open all night, serving its full menu.

• **Bedford Village Inn**, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, will host a five-course Christmas Eve dinner from 5 to 8:45 p.m. The meal will begin with a chef-selected amuse bouche, followed by a choice of New Orleans Spiced Crab Tartlet, Potato Gnocchi, Braised Short Rib, Maple Glazed Flatbread or Clam Chowder. Salad options will include Arugula Salad, Artisan Greens (tossed with shaved apple, fennel, roasted beets and topped with brown sugar citrus vinaigrette) and Caesar Salad. For entrees, customers will be able to choose Roasted Christmas Turkey, Atlantic Salmon, Parmesan House Tagliatelle, Grilled Ribeye, Slow Honey-Roasted Half Duck, Herb-Roasted Cod and Grilled Beef Tenderloin. A dessert bar will be served in the Great Hall. The meal costs $75. Reservations are required.

• **Buckley's Great Steaks,** 438 DW Highway, Route 3, Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com, will offer holiday specials during dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Fratello's**, 155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com, will serve its regular dinner menu until 8:30 p.m.

• **Granite State Restaurant & Bar** at The Centennial, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com, will serve its regular dinner menu from 5 to 10 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

• **The Lakehouse**, 281 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com, will serve dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar**, 212 Main St. Nashua, 595-3994, mtslocal.com, will be open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and offer holiday specials during dinner from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

• **O Steaks and Seafood**, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, magicfoodsrestaurant.com, will be open until 8 p.m. and will serve a four-course prix-fixe meal. Reservations are required.

• **Red Arrow Diner**, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com, will be open all night serving its regular menu and specials.

• **Republic**, 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com, will offer its regular menu with seafood specials, from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **The Saffron Bistro**, 80 Main St., Nashua, 883-2100, saffronbistro.com, will serve dinner and holiday specials from 3 to 9 p.m. Reservations are required.

• **Surf Restaurant**, 207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com, will offer its regular menu with specials from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

• **Surf Restaurant**, 99 Bow St., Portsmouth, 334-9855, surfseafood.com/portsmouth, will serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Tuscan Kitchen**, 67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscan-kitchen.com, will serve the Feast of the Seven Fishes, from 5 to 9 p.m. The seven-course meal will feature ahi tuna, pasta pillows filled with shrimp, clams, scallops and lobster, Taylor Bay scallops, grilled stuffed calamari, grilled prawns, oven-roasted red snapper and monkfish, mussels and clams in a lobster broth. The feast costs $50. Reservations will be accepted for parties of seven or more and call-ahead seating is available.

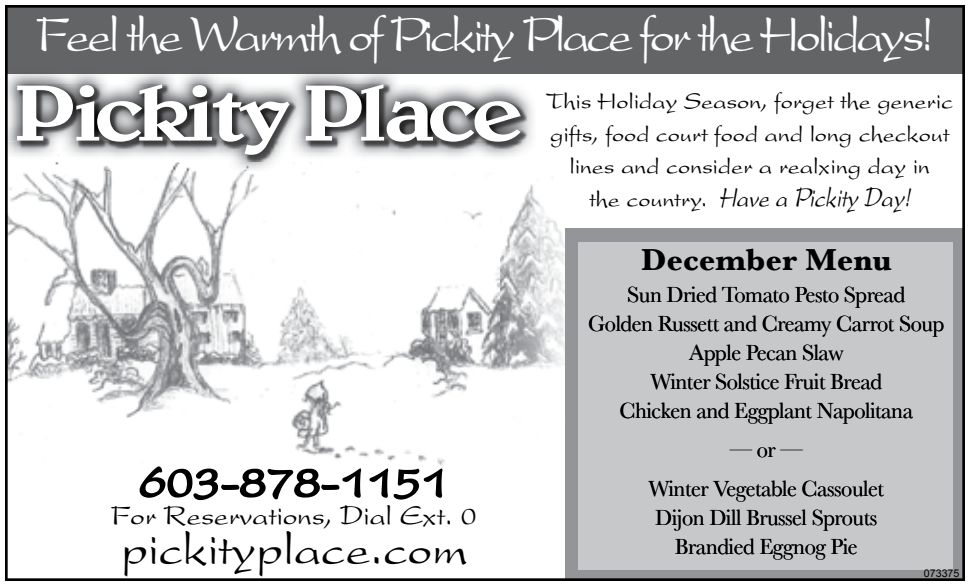
Christmas Day

• **The Airport Diner**, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com, will be open all day Christmas, serving its full menu and holiday specials.

• **The Lakehouse**, 281 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com, will offer a buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Christmas Day. The buffet will feature shrimp cocktail, chicken tempura, lobster and corn chowder, salad, herb-roasted red bliss potatoes, cranberry and leek rice pilaf, roasted sirloin of beef, mango- and pineapple-glazed ham, apple-glazed chicken breast, pesto-crusted salmon, assorted bread and rolls, assorted cakes and pastries, a fountain of chocolate and a design-your-own cupcake station. The buffet costs $34.95. Recommendations are recommended.

• **Red Arrow Diner**, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com, will also be open all day and serve its regular menu, with specials.

• **Wentworth by the Sea**, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 373-6566, wentworth.com, will offer a Christmas Day brunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a four-course dinner from 1 to 10 p.m. Grilled Filet of Beef, Pan Roasted Bacon Crusted Atlantic Salmon, Roasted Turkey and Roasted Rack of Lamb will be dinner entree options. The brunch buffet will feature assorted salads, fruits, cheeses and desserts, an omelet station, stuffed French toast and stations for carved meats, pasta and chilled seafood. Both the dinner and brunch cost $44.95 ($19.95 for children under 12). Reservations are recommended.









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Turning candy into ribbons

Delicate process makes a very special treat

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com



Kim Olszak, a 20-year employee of the Kellerhaus in Laconia, holds some of the sweet shop's handmade ribbon candy. Courtesy photo.

While many Granite Staters are thrilled to be able to leave their house without a jacket in December, the warm weather has a sad side: it means less ribbon candy is being made at Kellerhaus in Laconia.

Proper ribbon candy making is heavily reliant on the weather, said Mary Ellen Dutton, who owns Kellerhaus with her husband, David. Ribbon candy has to be made on cold and dry days when the humidity is less than 30 percent. Attempts to make ribbon candy on warm days will result in a sticky product, she said.

One thousand boxes of ribbon candy are produced at Kellerhaus annually during the holiday season, an amount that Dutton said she does not anticipate reaching this year because of the weather and because of the high volume she and her staff need to produce of the shop's other 115 offerings.

"For $10.95 a box we will only make as much as we can, with the days we can, with the staff we have," she said. During ribbon candy making season at Kellerhaus, which begins at the end of November, the confectionery treat is often made by a team of four, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Duttons, who purchased the shop in 2004, have made it their goal to continue the candy-making traditions of the Kellerhaus, which has called Laconia home for 105 years.

"I think some of our pots are that old," Dutton said. The ribbon candy crimping machine predates the opening of the candy shop — it was manufactured in 1886. The machine was updated during the early 20th century, as Peg Keller, the wife of the shop's second-generation owner who is now 91 and still visits the shop, once fell asleep while generating power for it by pedaling. The machine is now motorized.

Spun sugar is boiled to 300 degrees at the start of the ribbon candy making process in a pot that vacuums up the steam produced, Dutton said. Subsequently, the mixture, "a 30-pound blob of 200-degree candy," is laid on a metal table that has hot water running through it. The heated table allows the candy to stay pliable so it does not crack or shatter. Dutton and her staff wear heavy-duty gloves (so they don't burn themselves) and use a spatula to mix colors and flavors into the candy on the table. If Dutton runs out of a certain flavor during production or the loaf hardens, the whole process has to be restarted.

After colors and flavors are added, David Dutton uses an old-fashioned candy hook to bring air into the candy, making it lighter and giving it a glossy sheen.

"Then we go behind the curtain, like in *The Wizard of Oz*," Dutton said. Gas jets sit on a table behind the curtain of the production room at Kellerhaus to keep the "loaf" of candy warm. David Dutton flips the loaf continuously to keep the heat evenly distributed before he pulls pieces of the candy into long strands, or ribbons. Mary Ellen Dutton adjusts the width of the pulled candy and sends it through the crimping machine. The candy is then cut and packaged.

"When all of the boxes are full, immediately every high school kid in town comes down, put bags around each box and seals them," Dutton said. Desiccant bag are added to each box during packaging to keep moisture out until the box is opened.

A large box of 10 ribbon candy strips includes all eight flavors: vanilla, spearmint, clove, licorice, peppermint, cinnamon, wintergreen and molasses. Peanut butter ribbon candy is also sold separately at Kellerhaus.

"We used to make fruity flavors for Easter candy but no longer do that," Dutton said. "It's too much work."

"That's probably why not too many people are still doing it the old-fashioned way," she added.

Dutton had tried to climate-control the ribbon candy production space using air conditioning units and dehumidifiers to no avail — "I only did it once but it just didn't work," Dutton said. "The candy came out sticky. It wasn't one of our prize boxes. When someone picks up a box and you say, 'I hope they didn't pick one that we made that day,' something is wrong with that."

Dutton said she hopes to take another shot at keeping the room cool when business slows down a little bit. "I want to be in control," she said. "Not the candy."

Otto Keller, who opened the shop in 1906, learned to make ribbon candy by reading a book. The tradition has since been passed on to his successors, verbally.

"If you could see this process — [Otto Keller] must have been brilliant," Dutton said. "Even my husband says, 'I sure wish we could get our hands on that book.'"

Kellerhaus
259 Endicott St. North, Weirs Beach, 366-4466, kellerhaus.com

Weekly Dish

continued from page 42

berry sauce, mashed potatoes, parsnips, kale salad with almond butter-lime-ginger dressing and for dessert, brownies. Recipes of each dish will also be given out. The class and dinner cost $15. RSVP to event organizer Louisa Dell'Amico at louisa@metrocast.net or 729-0248.

• **Pick up some bubbly:** Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop, 815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, angelaspastaandcheese.com, will host a sparkling wine tasting throughout the day on Friday, Dec. 23.

• **Celebrate wine at Zorvino in 2012:** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will host a free authors night on Friday, Jan. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. featuring 75 authors who will sell, sign and discuss their books (a full list can be found on the Zorvino website). A Fateful Family Affair, a Zorvino Murder Mystery will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m., and the $30 ticket price will include a signed book and light appetizers. Chocolate Madness Wine Tasting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, and will feature three appetizers made with chocolate and paired with six wines. The cost of the chocolate tasting is $35. A 1970s bash will be held at the vineyard on Friday, Feb. 24, and will cost $25. Reservations for all events can be made at zorvino.com.

• **Wine tasting benefit in the Capitol City:** A wine tasting to benefit the Genetic Counseling Program at Concord Hospital Breast Care Center will be held at the Grappone Conference Center on Friday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. A VIP session will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. A custom-designed white diamond and white gold ring, valued at $3,000, will be the featured raffle prize at the event. Tickets cost $30 ($75 for VIP, which includes an additional tasting hour and a Riedel wine glass) at ch-trust.org or by calling 225-2711.

Know of a local restaurant serving a special dinner for Christmas or New Year's? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

Food Listings

Winter markets

• **CANTERBURY** in Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., ccfma.net.

• **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road in Concord, some Saturdays starting with Sat., Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.colegardens.com.

• **DERRY** at the Derry Recreation/Vets Hall, 31 W Broadway, Derry, the first and third Sundays November through March from noon to 4 p.m. See www.derry-nh.org.

• **EPPING** 16 Main St. in Epping, the first Friday of each month from November through April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 642-8747.

• **HOOKSETT** at White Birch Brewing, 1339 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

• **MILFORD** at Milford Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Union Square in Milford, on some Saturdays per month through May from 9 a.m. to noon: Jan. 7, Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 3; March 17; April 14, April 21; May 5, and May 9. See www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **NEWMARKET** at Carpenter's Olde English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St. in Newmarket, the third Saturday of the month from October to April.

• **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River School, 33 Old Manchester Road, on Saturdays, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **SALEM** at United Methodist Church on Pleasant Street on Sundays Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit salemfarmersmarket.com

• **SEACOAST EAT LOCAL** starts on Nov. 20 and alternates between Wentworth Greenhouses and Rollinsford and Exeter high schools. Visit seacoasteatlocal.org/winterfarmersmarkets/ for a full schedule.

• **TILTON** at 67 E. Main St., every Saturday from January through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.

• **WE ARE ONE FARMERS MARKET** at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 118 Center Road in Weare, Fridays through March 30, 3 to 6:30 p.m. See weare1farmersmarket.org.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **HOLIDAY FOOD GIFTS** Stop by the Downtown Manchester Holiday Market at Brady Sullivan Plaza, (1000 Elm St., Manchester) to do some holiday shopping and pick up jams and jellies from Laurel Hill, artisan crackers from Craquelins, dry soup and spread mixes from Life's Little Pleasures and baked goods from The Bakeshop on Kelley Street. Santa Claus is also scheduled to make an appearance. The market will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Dec. 15 and 22.

• **BOOK SIGNING** Laura Piazza, author of Recipes for Repair, will sign copies of her book at Toadstool Bookshop, 586 Nashua St., Milford on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

• **SMALL OFFICE PARTIES** If you have a small office but still want to celebrate the holidays together in a big way, Brookstone Grille, 14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9250, brookstonepark.com, will host its More The Merrier holiday celebration on Fri., Dec. 16, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. The party will costs $49.95 per person and includes a dinner buffet and entertainment. Reservations are required.

• **MARY ANN ESPOSITO** author of Ciao Italia Family Classics: More Than 200 Treasured Recipes from Three Generations of Italian Cooks at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, on Sat., Dec. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call 778-9731 or visit waterstreetbooks.com.

• **NEW HORIZONS BENEFIT** will be held at Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, on Sat. Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The event will feature performances by local musicians, a silent auction and light appetizers. Tickets cost $10 ($15 at the door) at helpnewhorizons.org. Donations of clothing (especially warm socks, boots and shoes) and canned food will be accepted .

• **COOKIE SWAP** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will host its 3rd annual Old-Fashioned Cookie Swap on Mon., Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. Guests are asked to bring 24 homemade cookies to share. The swap is free and open to the public.

• **FREE GIFT WRAPPING** will be offered at The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, on Mon., Dec. 19 and Tues., Dec. 20, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Chef events/special meals

• **MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEA** will be held at Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, on Sat., Dec. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. The tea will be held in the Overlook Dining Room and will feature loose-leaf teas, finger foods and a performance by a holiday pianist. The cost is $29.95 and reservations are required.

• **KATHY GUNST** , author of Notes from a Maine Kitchen: Seasonally Inspired Recipeswill sign copies of her book at Cotton, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com, on Fri., Dec. 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. A special menu featuring dishes from her book will be available along with the regular menu. All proceeds will benefit the Kid's Café.

• **LEBANESE DINNER** Washington Street Catering, 88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, www.washingtonstreetcatering.com, is serving up a five-course Lebanese dinner every Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. The menu features tapas-style appetizers, a choice of four entrees and more. Guests are served espresso, baklava and fruit for dessert. The dinner costs $23.95 per person; reservations are recommended. BYO wine.









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Red, white and green

A lot of wine, a little cash

In the spirit of this week's contemplation of gifts, we thought we'd pause in our tasting to consider wine as a gift.

A bottle of wine makes a great gift — perfect for close friends you hope to share it with and perfect for people you don't know as well. It can be part of a larger gift basket or it can stand on its own. But what to get?

• **For a crowd:** If you're buying wine for a party — yours or someone else's — and quantity would be appreciated, don't feel uneasy about buying a big bottle. We've found Woodbridge wines, a Robert Mondavi label, to be dependably good. Get a riesling or a moscato if you want to bring something sweet or one of their reds (they have a cabernet-merlot blend as well as bottles with each of those grapes separately). For a cheese, appetizers and cookies type affair, these wines will likely please the crowd and they won't put too big a dent in your wallet. The state stores also have a variety of two-bottle sparkling wine deals that won't break the bank but will make you look like a big spender.

• **For dinner:** If you're going to a smaller holiday affair and want to bring a bottle as a hostess gift, don't spend too much time trying to figure out what might go best with what's being served for dinner. Chances are, your hosts have already picked out the wines they plan to serve with food. Instead, take a bottle you have recently enjoyed — pick one that can be sipped on its own if you think your hosts will want to serve it that evening. Even in this cold weather, a crisp white can be nice before a meal and a sweet white can make for a good after-dinner sipper. Reds that are blends of varietals tend to pair well with food. Even if it doesn't match the main course, maybe it will be a good match for the cheese or hors d'oeuvres. And if you're looking to impress with a little-known wine or varietal, consider the affordable and supple carmenere, a long-lost European varietal found now almost exclusively in Chile. And a pinot noir from the Carnaros region is almost always a good choice.

• **For the occasional sipper:** Once again, your own taste is a good place to start. If you're buying a bottle for someone who is just getting in to wine, try giving one of your favorites of an unusual varietal. It's a good bet your friend has had chardonnay or merlot, but what about whites such as a chenin blanc or torrontes or reds like a cab franc or a Rioja? These wines can expand their knowledge of what different wines should taste like and perhaps give them new favorites.

• **For a connoisseur:** A wine lover would seem to be simple to shop for — buy them wine! But it can be intimidating. You want to get something they'll appreciate but you wonder if your picks are "fancy" enough. Instead of trying to, for example, buy the very best French wine available for the Francophile on your list, use what you know about their preferences (this person enjoys French reds) to find something from a less-traditional (and probably less pricey) local. It can help to go to a local wine shop or one of the state liquor stores known for its experts (the store off Hooksett Road in north Manchester, for example). Tell them you're looking for a French-style red from Washington or South America. If your friend is a fan of crisp Sauvignon Blancs, ask for advice finding a seafood-friendly wine from Italy. Instead of Champagne, treat your bubbly-loving friend with a Spanish Cava, an Italian Prosecco or, one of our favorites, one of the Gruet sparkling wines, which come from New Mexico (for sparkling wines, it doesn't get more exotic than that). The state stores have some fantastic deals on some of the bigger-name wineries that will make great gifts, especially for the big California wine lover. Ask a store manager to point them out.

• **For the wine-hater:** We realize these people exist, the ones who for whatever reason just don't do wine. This doesn't mean you have to give up on a tasty beverage as a fitting gift. Several local breweries offer seasonal brews (winter ales, porters and the like) that have as much complexity as a good wine and are sold in larger rocker sizes that almost match the size of a bottle of wine and can cost as much if not more. There are too many good beers to name, so visit your local beer retailer and ask them for some help.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over $20 (and most under $15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

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• **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com

• **SILVER MOUNTAIN CIDERS**, Lempster, 477-2026, silvermountainciders.com (open Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment)

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **HAPPY NEW BEERS** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 6. The cost is $35 and reservations are required.

• **WINEFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. The cost is $60 (includes six bottles of wine) and reservations are required.

• **DARK AND STORMY NIGHT BREWFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Tues., Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. The cost is $60 (includes two cases of beer) and reservations are required.

• **ABE'S ALEFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Sat., Feb. 11, at 11:30 a.m. The cost is $35 (includes a variety case of beer) and reservations are required.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

• WINENOT BOUTIQUE 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, offers six-week courses on different subjects related to wine. Sign up for all six classes or for individual sessions.

• WINE SOCIETY (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us) offers classes for wine-lovers of all levels. New sessions start every few months. Call for upcoming schedule.

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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Who needs Hollywood?

Young actor builds career right here in New Hampshire

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Most budding actors in New Hampshire have Hollywood dreams. And most believe the path to success begins and ends in Los Angeles. But one actress is blazing an alternative route that allows her to remain right here.

Vanessa Leigh started her collegiate career at Emerson College studying musical theater. During that time, the New Jersey native had a change of heart and moved on to the New Hampshire Institute of Art. There she studied painting, specifically oil painting. She painted whatever moved her.

After graduation she moved home to New Jersey until four years ago when she came back to New Hampshire. It was in the Granite State of all places that her acting career began to take off. However, Leigh moved away from the stage and is now doing primarily film and commercial work.

In New England, Leigh found a tight-knit film industry.

"There isn't a job that I work on where I don't know someone," Leigh said, "whether it is the director, the crew or the other actors."

Leigh said most young actors go to Los Angeles or New York but in those locations competition is crazy. An actor could spend years waiting tables and auditioning but have no work to show for it. In New England the situation is a little bit easier. However, hard work is still needed. When Leigh made the decision to commit to acting, she threw herself into her work.

"I did student films, I spent time traveling, I did whatever I could to build up my reel, which ultimately helped me get future jobs," Leigh said. "I knew what I wanted, but it took a lot of dedication."

Leigh does a variety of work, from national and local commercials — you can see her at the end of a Dunkin' Donuts advertisement — to films. She has starred in several local independent films, and the various roles have allowed her to explore different characters, which challenges her as an actor but also beefs up her résumé.

She has played a cannibal in *She-Feast*, starred as Joy in *Joy and the Apocalypse*, which aired on MyTV New England, and even played an assassin. Some of those roles were in films by Rick Dumont of Sweaty Turtle Productions. Dumont embraces young talent and encourages actors to avoid being pigeonholed and to remain artists. This is why Leigh has continued with her painting even as she's become a sought-after commodity.

"She's definitely a shining star of talent here in New Hampshire," Dumont wrote in an e-mail.

Leigh learns about new projects in a variety of ways. First, she said there are a lot of fantastic websites out there that let her know of openings. There are also casting calls by e-mail, which let actors know what parts are available and what sort of actor — height, age, ethnicity — would be right for the role. She also gets information from local casting agent John Campanello, who runs Between-Gigs Casting in Manchester.

As an aspiring model as well, Leigh is part of a New England modeling group, which is contacted by companies for commercials. They then alert Leigh that she is right for a role. She said this is why it is beneficial to network and get yourself known by agents — if they know you, they're more likely to refer work to you.

Once she hears about a project, she heads in for an audition. For a film, she usually looks at sides, which are small portions of the script, usually one or two pages of dialogue. Typically, she will have been given this in advance, so she has an idea of the character and dresses appropriately. She'll then read the lines in front of the director or producer, say thank you and then...

"Sometimes you hear back, sometimes you don't," Leigh said.

She said commercials are much the same except that she usually doesn't get the script in advance.

"They want an emotion from you," Leigh said. "If you're buying their baby stroller, they want you to be super happy about it."

Leigh couldn't be happier about her move toward film. She said she has done tons of plays and will always love live theater and the feedback she receives on the spot from the audience. But in film the acting is different. You don't have to be heard by the person in the back row. In a commercial, you may have to do 15 to 20 takes, which means it simultaneously more forgiving and more exacting. But eventually you can get it perfect.

To improve her skills, Leigh takes as many acting classes as she can afford. Being located in the Concord area, she has access to Boston and New York and travels to both places for classes. She thinks ultimately she may move somewhere to further her career, but if she does, she'll have had many great experiences in New Hampshire to draw upon.

"I love it here," Leigh said. "It has made me better at my craft and given me a lot of opportunities I might never have gotten somewhere else."



Vanessa Leigh. Courtesy photo.

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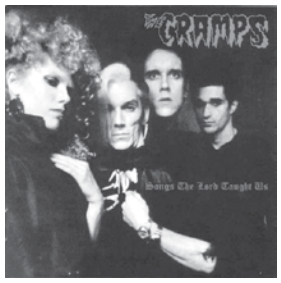
Hark, the herald Saeger sings

By Eric W. Saeger
listings@hippopress.com













Before imparting a few priceless nuggets of gift-giving wisdom, I figured I'd personalize this grammatical holocaust by examining what I might actually wish you'd buy, not that you will.

My regular pick of the season is the new LP from Italian classical piano dude **Maurizio Pollini**, the Pollini: 20th Century box set, a six-disc-palooza that finds this feller concentrating solely on 20th-century composers from Debussy to Boulez. Pollini kicks total ass when he plays Chopin, so maybe there is something to these 20th-century composers if he likes them so much. Seriously, have you ever tried listening to Chopin? Music used to be something truly amazing, did you even know that? While we're at it — what's that? No, Justin Bieber is not considered a "21st-century composer."

Matter of fact, the holidays are always awash in great classical records. This year, those will include *Brahms: Symphony No. 2* by the **Berliner Philharmoniker**, *Liszt: Piano Concertos, Totentanz, Etudes* by Russian pianist **Boris Berezovsky**, and *Mozart & Schubert: String Quartets* by the **Chiaroscuro Quartet**.

But you won't listen to me, will you, you just need to buy stuff tomorrow before the malls become completely insane, where there's no air at all, and pretzel stores sort of blend in with clothing shops and old people sitting there as totally dazed as you and some horrifyingly horrifying snap-dance version of "Jingle Bells" is blaring at you like a bullhorn pointed right at your ear. So yeah, you may need stuff for an older fan of just plain rock, like an uncle or a dad, and you're totally sick of him trying to get you to like his **Deep Purple** eight-tracks or whatever nightmare he puts you through while trying to "enlighten" you about 40-year-old albums. Delight this person with **Minus The Bear**'s *Omni* album from last year. Actually, just put it inside an old **Asia** jewel case and tell him it's an Asia album. Totally punked, LOL!

Or maybe this older person wants to know what you hip kids are listening to on your iGizmo, and meanwhile how do you hip kids drive and text and shave and listen to music all at the same time, and why are there so many accidents lately on route 93? But whatevs, this is a job for the new **Coldplay** album *Mylo Xyloto*, because it isn't bad and it's not gangster rap, what else could Dad possibly ask for? Actually, you and this older person might both enjoy the new **Black Keys** album *El Camino*, probably the most important rockabilly LP since **The Cramps**' *Songs the Lord Taught Us*. You know what, buy that one too.

Or maybe you know a girl, meaning a female person of some type, you know, a person who makes you panic and freak when your eyes meet by mistake. Take it from me, if there's anything girls like, it's dancing pregnant women being sexy, so get this person the new ***Beyoncé*** *Live at Roseland* two-disc DVD. In it, she is sexy while dancing while pregnant, and it has great cinematography.

Maybe you know someone who likes **Gorillaz** and you want to make them happy for the Kwanzaa holiday. That would be the new *Singles Collection: 2001-2011*, a CD/DVD retrospective with all the cartoon chill-hop one could ever want.

Some people like vinyl records, because they love having excuses to yell at their friends, who always hold fragile vinyl records like they're Big Macs, what the hell kind of slob-demon would do that to a vinyl album? Lots of vinyl came out this year, including the new **Amy Winehouse** *Hidden Treasures* double-LP, which is actually full of awesome stuff.

Maybe you know someone who likes old Julia Roberts movies or *Ally McBeal* reruns. If you want to get them something to improve their musical integrity and actually learn about great girl groups from the '60s, give them ***The* Marvelettes** *Forever More: The Complete Motown Albums*. Includes "Please Mister Postman," "Barefootin'," and a bunch of other stuff that's totally '60s, and it's FOUR DISKS of it, my God.

Finally, there is, believe it or not, a new **Naughty By Nature** album coming out, called Anthem Inc. It is a great present for Naughty By Nature, to have someone buy their album.

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POP CULTURE: CDS

Korpiklaani, *Ukon Wacka*
Nuclear Blast Records, Feb. 15



Somehow I'm back in the good graces of the small but always fascinating Nuclear Blast Records — I tend to believe that their new too-picky press-feed system nearly sank the ship. But that's for me to pretend to worry about, not you, and meanwhile we can play a little catch-up with one of their real winners. This Finnish fivesome touts themselves as "pagan-metal," which works I suppose if genre labels aren't required to be painfully accurate. It's the same bunch as ever with this new one, although the production is finally really befitting them. Add Flying V's and Red Bull to Gogol Bordello and that'd be this, the experience of being chased around the block by a mini-mob of grog-splattered Iron Age frost giants with their Marshalls pegged to 11. Another way to say it might be "Dropkick Murphys possessed by Slayer," but we're wasting time if you're already clued to this madness. This time, they dabble in sissy-boy neo-hard-rock ("Päät Pois Tai Hirteen") before rudely (and thankfully) canning the idea and doing what they do best for the duration. One of their most hilarious metal-polkas ever is "Tequila," wherein they randomly holler "Mexico!" and "Tequila!" over their accordions and thrash-punk, as if to say "Look mom! A song!" **A+** *—Eric W. Saeger*

Nero, *Welcome Reality*
Interscope Records, Dec. 13



Pretty formidable debut LP from the UK remix duo, whose "Promises" single blew up the UK dance charts in August, though much of the credit is due to their full-time singer, Alana Watson, who sounds like a sexually overwrought finalist from an Oakenfold tryout. The good news is "Promises" isn't the best thing on here (my pick would be "Guilt," its sexy but hurried lyrics furthering the trademarkability of the dubstep-pop speed-hook), proving the crew isn't afraid to get their hands dirty mining the depths of dance-pop, from Madonna to Tiesto (while we're at it, Euro-house is a big part of the picture here, along with Justice, Aphex Twin and, well, Roxette, if you want the truth). The not-so-great news is that like most of their peers, they don't want hard-line rinseout kids to hate their guts, so, structurally, the songs, instead of embracing their originality in normal linear fashion, insist on blasting a great hook in your face, then sodding off to do some thumb-twiddling nonsense, then picking up the hook again. Eventually, of course, bands like this will completely own the dance world, so enjoy the quirkiness while it lasts, I suppose. **A-** *—Eric W. Saeger*



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• It's the craziest time of the year for CD releases! No one knows what to do, so the record people put out random collections of crazy mixed-up stuff, mostly from movies and bands that have lost half their members to drugs/old-age/alien abduction. Oh, and imports, because they just don't know about Christmas overseas, such frickin' Grinches they are, like **Angela Aki**, the huge MOR star from Japan. All I know is that she totally rips off the Beatles song "Let It Be" on this one dreary bummer song, but who knows, maybe the rest of her music is better than Justin Bieber, right, if that's even possible? So run out on Tuesday to whatever record shop still has someone working there, and pick up her import album, *Today*, out on Tuesday.

• If your money is bored with being in your pocket, you could always spend it on ***Glee: The Concert Movie***, which will be out next week on Blu-ray. Or not, which is what I'd recommend, because, you know, haven't you had enough "quirky and ironic" to last you a decade after this year's "advances" in art?

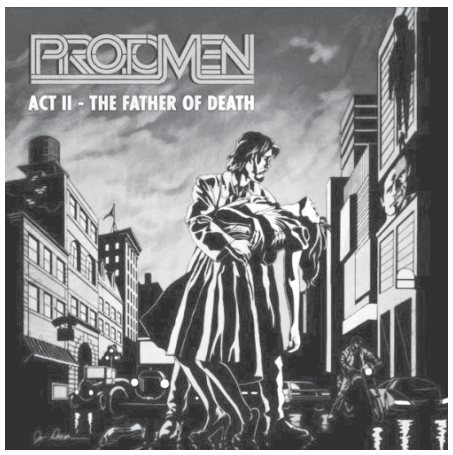
• Oh cripes, come on, guys, come on. ***Halo: Combat Evolved Anniversary Soundtrack*** will be out next week? You seriously can't be so obsessed with your widescreen Space Invader Gameboy thingy that you'd actually have its music in your buds while you're waiting in line at the bank? Jeez, dude! Of course, you could instead get the new Christopher Young-helmed **soundtrack** to ***The Rum Diary***, which I assume was a good movie, not that I'll ever watch Johnny Depp again, after he became the 90th young person to be adopted by Angelina Jolie.

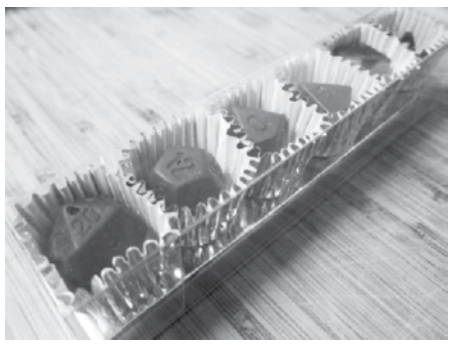
• Crazy random things abound; yes, crazy random things abound, most indubitably. Most of the rest of what's coming out next week is crazy-dumb, but there are also crazy-cool things, like *The Best of* ***Glenn Miller*** *and His Orchestra: Alexander Jero Restoration Project*, on 7.1 DTS-HD Master Audio Disc Blu-ray, with, believe it or not, Surround Sound. Of course, if you have "thug integrity" (meaning you're always looking for an excuse to use lines from Dead Presidents in everyday conversation) you'll probably just want to stick with the here and now, with the Deluxe Edition of **Young Jeezy**'s TM-103. The hardest thugs next week, however, are **Amduscia**, an old evil aggrotech-metal band who outright refuse to acknowledge Christmas! They will release their new collection *Death, Thou Shalt Die* on Tuesday, just in time for Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer to jack it to his iPod and DO THIS THING. *—Eric W. Saeger*

Happy Geeknukkah!

Eight dorky days and eight nerdy nights

By Glenn Given
production@hippopress.com







It was once so simple, wasn't it? You could grab the nearest object with Star ____ on the box and your holiday shopping was complete. Pick up any video game with the word "War," "Storm" or "Reckoning" in the title and hours of borderline seizures were destined to flicker across their precious retinas. But now we live in a post-prequels world. Here any game, flick, toy or tchotchke you gift could be a gaily wrapped ticking time bomb of abject failure.

Today, more than ever, it is crucial that when you present your presents to the family geek you make a favorable impression. I don't know if you've looked around but those girls, they're the ones keeping your company's network running smoothly. They are the guys whose Fortune 500 company has a dozen meeting rooms each named after a vintage video game. They are lurking in the next cubicle, they are writing out your checks and the future is increasingly being placed into their hands. These aren't the folks you want to disappoint with an ill-chosen gift, or worse, the hollow platitude of a gift card.

Since it is highly unlikely that you can score a personalized letter of apology from George Lucas during this year's holiday season, here are some other ways to please those who top their trees with blue police boxes and who celebrate a Festival of Lightsabers with the original, un-tampered VHS copies of the Holy Trilogy. I present my humble Wookie Life Day wish list.

1. The Protomen, *Act II — The Father of Death,* $10

Nerd cred doesn't run any deeper than 8bit *Mega Man* for the NES. What better way to celebrate the noble tale of one robot fulfilling his human father's dream by liberating a future from the robot army of an insane doctor than by telling the story though prog-metal. Hailing from Nashville, The Protomen's epic electro rock is the perfect soundtrack to night-long campouts in front of the PS3.

2. Chocolate Dice, $15+

Colorado nerd Mario Lurig is on deck to strike the critical hit … of deliciousness! His kickstarter.com project, chocolates molded in the shape of traditional RPG dice, is a guaranteed hit among geeks. Though it won't see delivery until after the holidays, the combination of crowd-funding goodwill and yummy treats is exactly the type of I.O.U. that your nerd will treasure. Go to www.kickstarter.com/projects/ucffool/gaming-dice-in-chocolate-and-sugar.

3. *Leviathan*, *Behemoth* & *Goliath* by Scott Westerfeld, about $40

Now that Justin Bieber has officially jumped steampunk over the clockwork shark with his "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" video abomination, you have precious little time to enjoy the heights of the genre. This lusciously illustrated tale of an alternate WWI where battleship- sized mechs fight flying mutant whales is thrilling and approachable for all its fancy. The camaraderie between the on-the-lam Archduke's son and a scrappy British lass (cross-dressing for military duty, no less) is fun and warm in a *Twelfth Night*-meets-*Moonlighting* kind of way. Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* trilogy is both the height of Young Adult fiction and one of the best exercises in "whatever"-punk on shelves.

4. A one year comic subscription, about $50

Despite the half-step of DC Comics' recent relaunch there are more interesting, exciting and engaging titles in the funnybook boutique than ever before. Take a trip to your local comic retailer

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and strike a deal. While you can simply get a gift certificate to cover the cost of 12 issues, it would be far more thoughtful to work with the clerk to set aside a book each month for your giftee. Alternately, you could subscribe for direct mail or digital delivery of most big publisher titles, but for geeks, supporting the friendly local comic shop is half the allure. Who knows? While you're there you might find a title for yourself.



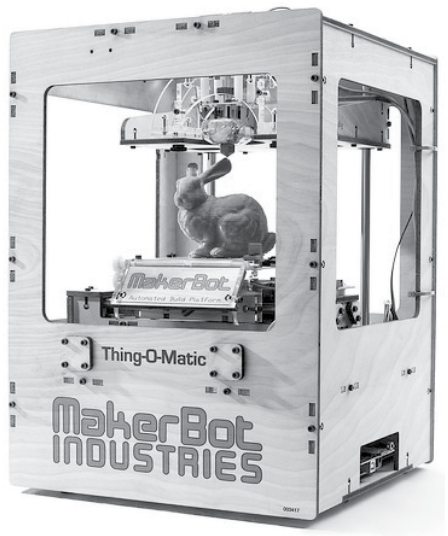
5. Super Dungeon Explore, $90

This thudding doorstop of a box scratches a very particular itch. It's an anime-themed designer board game built to emulate *Gauntlet*-style video games and contains dozens of fantasy wargame miniatures. After hours of superglue-ing Chibi knights, wizards, kobolds and dragons together your favorite geek will be able to host a surprisingly accessible hack and slash adventure. www.sodapopminiatures.com.



6. 53 Pouches of Astronaut Ice Cream, 6 hours of patience and a steady hand, $157

By my calculations, with 53 pouches of the freeze-dried delight known as Astronaut Ice Cream you should net about two and a quarter pounds of chalky, scrumptious building blocks. This should be enough to construct a 1/200 scale, 11 x 9.5 x 7 model of the NASA Space Shuttle. You can use the chocolate-flavored fragments to LEGO together an external fuel tank and construct the remaining shuttle and recoverable boosters. Use any confectionery compound such as Nutella or frosting to mortar the pieces together. What better manner to honor the triumph of our sadly abandoned manned space program than by eating a replica of its greatest engineering triumph? Proper devouring order would be Boosters, Fuel Tank, Shuttle.



7. An Arcade Cabinet, varies wildly, at least $150, plus transportation

Everybody wants to tie a huge bow around something in the garage and present it to a blindfolded family member. Sure, you could get them something lame and "useful" like a car, but wouldn't we all rather have a cocktail *Dig-Dug* or *Joust* cabinet for the lounge, rumpus room or foyer? I thought as much. eBay and Craigslist are sure to turn up semi-local sales on classic arcade machines that are a borrowed truck and a dolly away. Make sure you test out the button and controller responsiveness as well as inspecting the monitor for display errors.

8. Maker Bot Thing-o-matic, $1,099

Let's get serious here. If you don't know what to get for the geek who already seems to have everything, get him the means to make everything else. The Maker Bot Thing-o-Matic is a compact 3-D printer capable of extruding practically anything you can model on a computer. Is it "Tea. Earl Grey. Hot" level of future-tech? No, but you can use it to print the parts of another Thing-o-matic which puts us one step closer to the Singularity (or extinction via Grey Goo). Also you can substitute frosting for plastic and make the nerdiest cupcakes in the known universe. Go to http://store.makerbot.com/thing-o-matic-kit-mk7.htm

Geek resources

Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com

Collectibles Unlimited
25 South St., Concord, 228-3712, collectiblesunlimited.biz

The Comic Store
115 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 881-4855

The Game Castle
123 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 425-7400

Myriad Games
1525 South Willow St., Manchester, 623-4263; 8 Stiles Road, Salem, 681-0355, myriadgames.com

Level Up
1295 Elm St., Manchester, 622-9343, levelupnh.com

Play N Trade
44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 437-PLAY

The Relentless Dragon
493 Amherst St., Nashua, 204-5275, relentlessdragon.com

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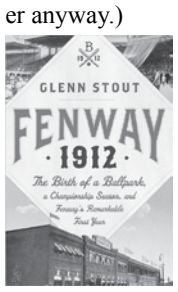
For giving, receiving, or just reading

By Lisa Parsons
lparsons@hippopress.com

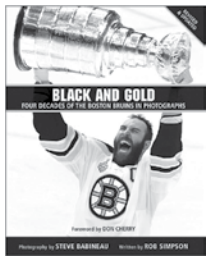
Books make great gifts, to yourself or to others. And just hanging around in bookstores is fun this time of year. There's usually a warm beverage nearby, and music playing, sometimes caroling or live tunes, or authors visiting, sometimes free gift wrapping or wrapping paper for purchase. And there are BOOKS!

Here are some suggestions to help you connect with those on your shopping list.

(OK, it's 14 books but the two Archie comics collections and two Star Trek books can count as one. They'd go great together anyway.)



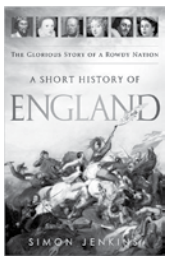
For baseball fans, there's ***Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year*, by Glenn Stout** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Next year is the centennial of the construction of Fenway Park. Your loved one can get a head start with this story of that first year — not just the building of the park, but the team and the games. Check Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Stout did a book-signing there and they might have leftover autographed copies for sale. Pair with some Red Sox trinkets.



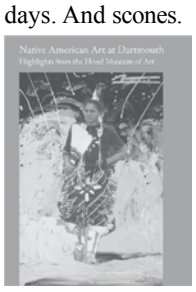
If hockey is more their speed, go for ***Black and Gold: Four Decades of the Boston Bruins in Photographs, Revised & Updated*, photography by Steve Babineau, written by Rob Simpson** (Wiley). The title says it all. Even if your giftee owns the 2008 edition, they'll want this one, updated to include the, say it with me, Stanley Cup win of last year. Pair with Monarchs tickets to stoke the hockey spirit.



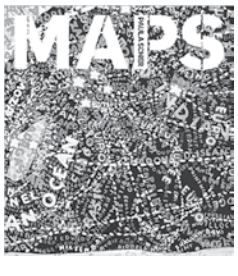
Speaking of ice, how about ***A History of Dog Sledding in New England*, by Bruce D. Heald, Ph.D.** (The History Press). What? There's a history of dog sledding in New England? Yes there is, and someone you know would enjoy reading about it in this slim paperback of 125 black-and-white pages with pictures. Pair with a Chinook bobblehead or a made-in-Concord needlepoint dog collar from the New Hampshire Historical Society, www.nhhistory.org. (Also, and I recommend it not having seen the book yet but just based on its Amazon preview pages, the brand new graphic novel *Mush! Sled Dogs with Issues*, by Glenn Eichler, if you can conceive of your giftee liking both these books.) And speaking of New Hampshire's history, ***A 1940s Monadnock Childhood*, by Tom Shultz** (The History Press) is especially good for those "in my day, we didn't have iPods" types. Give it to your dad or grandpa so he can read it, say "Ha! Told you so!" and then make *you* read it, passage for passage. Pair with An Old Man in the Mountain cutting board from the Historical Society.



And speaking of history in general, ***A Short History of England: The Glorious Story of a Rowdy Nation*, by Guardian columnist and former The Times editor Simon Jenkins (Public Affairs Books), is a book-lover's book. Looks like a normal-sized hardcover, weighs like a bag of sugar; must be high-quality paper. Jenkins takes us, in a lively but not rowdy way, from "Saxon Dawn" all the way to "Thatcher's Children," chapter after chapter as "links in a chain." "To refer to England and the English as distinct from Britain and the British is often treated as hostile to the cosmopolitanism implied by the union, even as racist," he writes. "… I find this absurd." Pair with anything emblazoned with "Keep Calm and Carry On," which is a thing these days. And scones.

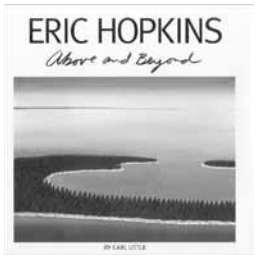


Back to New Hampshire (with English connections): When Dartmouth was founded, it was supposed to be a school to educate Native Americans. Didn't work out that way, but they've tried to make good lately. ***Native American Art at Dartmouth: Highlights from the Hood Museum of Art*** (Hood Museum of Art and University Press of New England) is a large paperback published to coincide with an art exhibit that is running through March 11, 2012. Its glossy color pages include interviews with curators and close-up images accompanied by artists' statements. The exhibit includes artifacts of Native life as well as artwork created by Native Americans, all part of the Museum's permanent collection. With detailed photos that let you examine up close a basket made around 1925 of grape root, myrtle sticks, fern, lichen and dyed porcupine quills (you wouldn't know if you didn't read the caption), a boy's parka made of caribou hide and fur, and all kinds of moccasins, dolls, bowls etc. as well as vibrant works from today's artists, this is the next best thing to being there. See hoodmuseum.darthmouth.edu for some images. Pair with jewelry or a CD from the gift shop of the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner (www.indianmuseum.org).



For graphic-design types and coffee-table covering, consider ***Maps*, by Paula Scher** (Princeton Architectural Press). Famed Citibank logo designer Scher grew up with "giant aerial photographic maps" at home courtesy of her father's career with the U.S. Geologi-

cal Survey, she writes, and now she makes huge map paintings and infographics — she has painted a U.S. map that's reproduced here whose original is 9' x 12'. Her maps are filled with words, the names of the cities and rivers and ideas associated with each place. A 2005 painting of Florida is filled with place names and data from the 2000 election results. A 2006 painting titled "Tsunami" shows Southeast Asia centered on a spot where the words "Eye of Tsunami" are painted in a circle, and the other words are painted in concentric circles around that. Sections of each map are enlarged for detailed scrutiny. It can't be anything like seeing the originals, but pictures showing some of her installations give a nice idea of what this kind of design can do. See www.paulaschermaps.com. Pair with crayons and sketch paper. Lots.



***Eric Hopkins: Above and Beyond*, by Carl Little** (Down East) will bring a regional bent to your coffee table and draw comments of "ooh, pretty pictures." Hopkins is a Maine painter who goes up in airplanes and later paints what he saw. There's lots of broad strokes of blue and green — "He is a colorist, pure and simple," Little writes. Pair with a road trip to Maine. For the most serious or aspiring artist, ***Oak: One Tree, Three Years, Fifty Paintings*, by Stephen Taylor** (Princeton Architectural Press) will provide much to contemplate. "Why paint an oak tree?" Taylor asks. Answer: it was a source of solace after a rough patch in his life. If you look quickly through the book, you will think some of the paintings are photographs. There's oak tree at night, in daylight, in all seasons, from close up and from far away. All the same, all different…. Pair with some tree seedlings.



At the other end of the art spectrum, dip into the shiny colors and wacky antics of 1960s comic books with two new Archie collections from IDW Publishing: ***Archie: The Best of Harry Lucey*** (Vol. 1) and ***Archie: The Best of Samm Schwartz*** (Vol. 1). Samm Schwartz is known as the artist who really brought Jughead into his own, and you can see that in action here, Jughead becoming more well-rounded and a more active character. Schwartz makes good use of his characters' facial expressions; Harry Lucey uses lots of slapsticky full-body motion and imparts a kinetic feel to each story. Their tenures overlapped and their styles won't feel greatly different to the casual reader, but either or both of these substantial, brilliantly colored hardcovers would make an excellent gift for the nostalgic/lapsed Archie fan or the comics-curious younger reader. Pair with a retro Archie T-shirt or some current Archie comics, available at big-box-bookstores and smaller stores near you.



And while we're thinking about popular characters from years past: ***Obsessed With™ Star Trek*** (Chronicle Books) is not just a book, it's a toy, a hardcover with an electronic gadget in the corner where you press buttons to answer questions and then get a happy chirpy sound if you're right and a sad buzz if you're wrong. Our lab testing indicates that some people just can't get enough. So it's good that there are 2,500 multiple-choice questions, covering all the Star Trek TV series, and different modes — you can play alone or with a friend, and you can have the gadget randomly choose questions or you can select specific ones. Question 1: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 2: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 3: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 4: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 5: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 6: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? Question 7: What is Captain Kirk's middle name? 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To read before Christmas

All that shopping at the bookstore kind of makes you want something for yourself, doesn't it? Make your own wish list, but don't hesitate to pick up one of these to read in the days before the holiday. They're not too pricey.

• ***Home for Christmas***, by Jan Brett (2011, Putnam) is about a boy (troll, but he's just a boy with a tail) who runs away from home and spends a few wintry nights with wild animals. Wouldn't you know it, the experience is enough to make him appreciate his family and do his chores. As always, Brett draws lovingly detailed renditions of otters and bears and moose, not to mention cabins and clothing and everything else, with lots of extras in the margins. She lives in Massachusetts and took inspiration for this book from a trip to Sweden. You can spend many minutes just taking in everything on a single page spread. (She says it takes her an hour to draw each inch.)

• The same goes for the new edition of Brett's take on ***'Twas the Night Before Christmas***. It was first published in 1998 but this just-released version includes a DVD of (a) Jan Brett talking about how she approached this story and her choice of Stockbridge, Mass., as a model for the setting and (b) narrator Jim Dale reading the story while images from the book dance on the screen and the Boston Pops play in the background, the way they accompany the classic story every year at their holiday concert. Jan Brett's The Night Before Christmas is a bright shiny-covered package of Christmas perfection -- her style is perfectly suited to this magical story. Everything's warm and cozy yet tidy and confined, like a neatly wrapped package that has exactly the right amount of restraint to keep from bursting at its seams. Brett is donating her proceeds to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to which her husband belongs.

• For not-children, and about 180 degrees away from Jan Brett's dancing sugarplum world, there's satire and the harsh coldness of bickering relatives and flavorless food. If you find yourself trapped in a pocket of forced sweetness that threatens to overwhelm, step away from the fakery and take a dose of ***The Onion Presents: Christmas Exposed*** (2011, Quirk Books). It's 176 pages of satirical and often painfully relatable stories like "Marital frustrations channeled through thermostat" and info charts like "Most Popular Winter Holiday Decorations" (one is "Bitterly strung popcorn"). Rated R for language and mature themes; will elicit laughs even from reluctant readers, except the irredeemably humorless.

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POP CULTURE: BOOKS

tion 1376: What crew member was 'reverse imprinted' by Xindi insectoid eggs to care for them? There's also another new Star Trek book out, not a trivia book but a retrospective coffee-table book. Organized by series, packed with stills from the shows plus pictures of fan conventions, toys and memorabilia (wonder what one of those Happy Meal boxes is worth now, and have you ever had Romulan Ale?) and Trek-inspired art, ***Star Trek Vault: 40 Years from the Archives by Scott Tipton*** (Abrams) is the kind of shiny but substantial object that will keep your Star Trek fan happily engaged for a good half-hour at a time during your Christmas vacation and beyond (I can't stop looking at it now). It includes 14 reproductions of memorabilia — trading cards, an iron-on T-shirt transfer, etc. Nice touch: the inside cover pages are real images of deep space peppered with galaxies, setting the stage for a this-is-real fantasy. The text considers not just the goings-on of the series but its interaction with real life — how the first NASA Space Shuttle got its name, for instance—and plenty of making-of information (look, there's Leonard Nimoy behind the camera while still in costume). Star Trek Vault lovingly looks at all the TV series (even the animated one) and the films and it will bring your coffee table, and your giftee's inner nerd-child, to life. Pair with: A trip to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord to see the chairs that appeared in Geordi La Forge's (Levar Burton) quarters in Season 4, Episode 90, of *Star Trek: TNG*.



Finally, just in time for stockings or your hipster friend's pocket, ***The Tiny Book of Tiny Stories: Volume 1*** (It Books) is out from Hitrecord.org, the collaborative led by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, the guy who's in movies and played an extraterrestrial on *3rd Rock from the Sun*. People submit (online) artwork and tiny little stories, one or two lines maybe, e.g. "Sometimes, I like awake wondering about the future, when I lie awake wondering about the past," and 67 submissions were selected for this tiny book (it's maybe 4" x 6"). OK, so they're not exactly Hemingway, it's still a cool little package of vintage 2011 everyman creativity. Pair with dark sunglasses.

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Author events

• **MARY KATHRYN MACKLIN** will talk about her book *Women Fit at Fifty: A Guide for Living Long*, on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble at 1741 S. Willow St. in Manchester, 668-5557.

• **FRITZ WETHERBEE** will talk about his new book, *New Hampshire Rocks*, on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Milford Toadstool Bookshop, 673-1734, and on Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Peterborough Toadstool Bookshop, toadbooks.com.

• **HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.** will talk about his new book *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers in the Loft series. Tickets to the event cost $64 and include a reserved seat, book, bar beverage, the author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet & greet. Tickets are available at the Music Hall box office, 436-2400 or www.themusichall.org.

Lectures and discussions

• **DEGREES OF CHANGE** is a Science Café series of discussion about climate change taking place at 900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, 50 Dow St., Manchester. The public is encouraged to give input, ask questions and join the discussions. The event is free and open to the public and food will be available for purchase; 900 Degrees will be serving from their regular menu throughout the event. Register to attend by calling the SEE Science Center at 669-0400 or visiting www.see-sciencecenter.org. The final date in this Science Café series is scheduled for Dec. 19 and will feature Ken Colburn.

• **EVEREST!** multimedia presentation by Craig Johnson about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest and his expeditions to Kilimanjaro, Denali and Cho Oyu, on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater), 2 Court St., 589-4610. Free and open to the public.

• **SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SEMINAR** for adults begins Jan. 12 at Congregation Betenu in Amherst. There will be 10 weekly meetings, on Thursdays, between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each session will stand alone, and the public is invited to come to the whole series or just individual sessions of interest. No pre-registration is needed, but RSVP is appreciated. The seminar will be led by Raphael Colb, an English teacher at Hebrew University. Contact Rahel at 554-1459 or betenu@nii.net for info or to RSVP.

Book discussions

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** at 27 S. Main St. in Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com, hosts monthly book discussions. All discussion titles are 25% off until the date of their discussion. Meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Jan. 2, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Jan. 12: *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch and plan on an enjoyable time. Dec. 27: *A Year in Provence*, by Peter Mayle.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of the Nashua Public Library. New members welcome. Thurs., Jan. 12, the group will discuss *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

• **POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY** non-fiction book club meets on the first Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Pollard Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Thurs., Jan. 5, discussing *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli.

• **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

• **WADLEIGH LIBRARY** in Milford hosts book clubs that meet monthly, newcomers welcome. Morning book group will meet Thurs., Jan. 12, 10-11:30 a.m. to discuss *Emma* by Jane Austen. Evening book group will meet Tues., Jan. 24, 7-8:30 p.m. to discuss *Skeletons at the Feast* by Chris Bohjalian. Chicks with Sticks book club for grades 7+ will meet on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 3 p.m. to discuss *Paranormalcy* by Kiersten White; new members and beginning knitters welcome.

Poetry

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. See www.poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org or call 332-0732.

• **POETRY CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS** The Poetry Society of NH coordinates several contests for students in elementary school, high school and college. Winners receive prizes and are published in the Society's quarterly magazine. Elementary and high school contests are limited to NH students. The college contest is open to undergraduates anywhere. For guidelines, visit www.poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org. College contest deadline is Jan. 30. Other student contests' deadline is March 31.

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets following the open mike. $3 cover charge. E-mail SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286. On Thurs., Dec. 15, National Poetry Slam champion "Mighty" Mike McGee will perform (www.mikemcgee.net).

• **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.

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FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



Young Adult

Young Adult (R)

Charlize Theron plays a vicious, determinedly immature mega-jerk in *Young Adult*, a wonderfully caustic comedy by Diablo Cody.

I liked *Juno* and even *Jennifer's Body* but Cody has truly found the magic with *Young Adult*. It is her evil masterpiece.

Mavis Gary (Theron) is a ghostwriter of sorts (her name is not the big famous one on the outside of the book; it's the one under "story by" on the inside) for a series of teen books called Waverly Prep and is living in an apartment in Minneapolis. Recently divorced and facing the end of the series, Mavis is already in a funk when the emotional straw that breaks the camel's back of whatever sanity she may have had arrives in her email inbox. Buddy Slade (Patrick Wilson), an ex-boyfriend from back in her small town of Mercury, Minnesota, and his wife Beth (Elizabeth Reaser) have just had their first child. Mavis broods on this photo, in between a breakfast of Diet Coke and an always-on TV set to E!'s reality shows, and eventually comes to the decision that the thing to do is to return to Mercury and win back Buddy.

Hey, why not.

She leaves Minneapolis (with a sleeping one-night-stand still in her bed, no less) and arrives in town with her tiny dog to set up camp in a Hampton Suites. She leaves a message for Buddy — claiming to be in town for a real estate thing — and then prepares for a night on the town. After putting on too much eye makeup and a just-this-side-of-trampy outfit, she heads to a local bar preparing to meet Buddy. He calls to set up a meeting for the next night but while at the bar she runs in to Matt Freehauf (Patton Oswalt), a still geeky guy she went to high school with whose nickname and physical disabilities spring from an incident in his teens that left him on crutches and known as "the hate crime guy." Freehauf may still have the physical scars from high school but it quickly becomes clear that it's Mavis who is still stuck in her teenage years. She has decided, based on nothing, that Buddy still wants her and that they are meant to be and that she, with enough eyeliner, slutty tops and remember-when stories, can get him back.

Matt suggests she seek professional help; we in the audience agree.

When she does meet up with Buddy, he gives the impression of being not a man ponder divorce but just a slightly harried, slightly dopey new dad who is vaguely happy to chat about old times with an old friend. Perhaps because some part of him likes Mavis' aggressive flirtation, he even invites her to come to a show for Beth's band, Nipple Confusion, and doesn't seem completely unresponsive when he drunkenly allows Mavis to kiss him.

But we, and Matt Freehauf, know better. We can sense that when Mavis tells her parents — mom Hedda (Jill Eikenberry) and dad David (Richard Bekins) — that she thinks she might be an alcoholic, it's probably the first honest thing she's said since she returned to Mercury. Whatever subconscious thrill Buddy may be getting from Mavis' affections is greatly outweighed by the fact that he's mostly oblivious to them. Mavis' reaction to pretty much everything about her home town is a kind of "gag me with a spoon" pose, one that most people in their late 30s might express (if it came to them at all) with a discreet eye-rollat most but one that Mavis still telegraphs with all the bitchy callowness of the 16-year-old mean girl she undoubtedly was.

I can't overstate how pitch perfect this movie is. From the 1990s music to the clips of the crying, shame-free D-list celebrities who populate a certain kind of reality show to the unrelenting smack-worthy horribleness of Mavis, *Young Adult* hits its targets with breathtaking precision. Like a 14-year-old's creative writing project, Mavis' narration of the final book of the Waverly Prep series is a wonderfully ridiculous version of her own life, with the Mavis stand-in simply a beautiful, perfect victim of others' jealousy.

Do you get Oscars for playing not a physically transformed serial killer but an emotionally stunted super-bitch? Something tells me the serious Oscar voters won't see Mavis as quite the tour de force of Theron's role in *Monster* but I personally think it might be her best role ever. Like *Seinfeld* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Young Adult* does not let its characters hug or learn. Mavis isn't ultimately a hurt fluffy bunny under a prickly surface — she is an awful, messed-up wretch who is in actuality much shallower than she appears. She is everyone's worst instincts and most immature thoughts — and Theron gives us a Mavis who is obliviously yet proudly that awful.

And yet for such a loathsome character, she is a delight to watch. Perhaps it's because her horribleness is only an exaggerated version of the vile person that we all potentially contain within. If you lived one place as a teen and moved someplace else as an adult, you (by which, of course, I mean me) can be horrified to meet up with someone who knew you when and realize, from the things they talk about or the way they treat you, what a schmuck you must have been. Here, we realize how awful a young Mavis must have been — and how she clearly hasn't changed — and can enjoy the *Seinfeld*-ian there-but-for-the-grace-of-God humor that results. **A**

Rated R for language and some sexual content. Directed by Jason Reitman and written by Diablo Cody, Young Adult *is an hour an 34 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures. It opens Friday, Dec. 16.*

The Sitter (R)

Jonah Hill is a slackery man-boy who nevertheless has a kind heart in *The Sitter*, a very middling, very R-rated comedy.

Just to be clear, this isn't some L.L. Cool J situation where a formerly R-rated actor is going PG. Though there are kids on the screen, the sex, language, violence and cocaine should keep them out of the theaters.

Noah (Hill) has dropped out of college, is living with his mom and is spending time, let's say, with Marisa (Ari Gaynor). Noah's relationship with Marisa is a rather limited, one-way-street kind of relationship but he's hoping that if he waits it out perhaps there will be some legitimate boyfriend-girlfriend rated-R whoopee. Waiting for such a circumstance seems to be his chief occupation along with watching TV, despite his mom Sandy's (Jessica Hecht) hopes that he'll get a job. When a sitter backs out on neighbors at the last moment, Sandy urges Noah to step in. Noah has no interest in babysitting but then he realizes that if the neighbors can't get a sitter they can't go out and if they can't go out they can't take his mother with them to meet the handsome doctor whom they think is perfect for her. Guilt and nice-guy-ness overtake Noah and he gives in.

When he gets to the neighbors' house, he meets his three terrors, er, charges for the evening: Blithe (Landry Bender), a make-up-wearing wannabe-Kardashian elementary-schooler; Slater (Max Records), an anxiety-filled 13-year-old, and Rodrigo (Kevin Hernandez), the newly adopted Latin-American wannabe gangster (middle-school age, I'm guessing). Noah takes an instant dislike to these children but plans to stick it out for his mom's sake, but then Marisa calls. If he can only go buy her some drugs and then stop by the party she's at, it might be the night for them to finally have sex.

Against all common sense, Noah's reaction is: OK.

So he piles the kids in the minivan and heads for the city. Naturally, things do not go smoothly. He loses track of the kids, gets the minivan stolen, inadvertently steals from a very unstable drug dealer (Sam Rockwell), is nearly arrested in the little girls' underwear section of a discount store, gets punched hard in the face and on-purpose burglarizes a jewelry store.

That last sentence felt so contrived you can almost see the pitch — "and then! the drug dealer! chases the minivan! Ha! It's *The Hangover* with kids!" You have seen this kind of shtick before and it was more lame than funny then too.

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked **(G)**
Jason Lee, David Cross.
Both boy and girl Chips go on a cruise only to be stranded on an island. Where they were never heard from again the end. (That second sentence is probably just wishful thinking.) Opens wide on Friday, Dec. 16.

Arthur Christmas **(PG)**
James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie.
Arthur, son of Santa, finally gets his big toy-delivering moment in this animated tale. **B**

The Descendants **(R)**
George Clooney, Nick Krause.
Clooney stars in the latest film from Alexander Payne (he of the excellent *About Schmidt* and *Sideways*). This one takes place in Hawaii as a man deals with his two young daughters and the impending death of his wife. **A-**

Contagion **(PG-13)**
Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow.
Bring a flu mask! An illness turns deadly and spreads across the Earth. **B+**

Hugo **(PG)**
Chloe Grace Moretz, Asa Butterfield.
The 2007 kids' book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* gets a big-screen adaptation helmed by one Mr. Martin Scorsese. **B+**

J. Edgar **(R)**
Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer.
Biopic season! The FBI's J. Edgar Hoover gets the Oscar-bait treatment from director Clint Eastwood. **C+**

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol **(PG-13)**
Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner.
The IMF is framed for a bombing in Russia and via explosions, jumping out of buildings and other cool special-effect stuff Ethan Hunt and team work to clear their record. Opens wide on Friday, Dec. 16.

The Muppets **(PG)**
Jason Segel, Amy Adams.
It's time to start the music, it's time to light the lights. It's time to meet the Muppets in a brand new movie. (Insert screaming frog here). **B+**

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows **(PG-13)**
Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law.
The Victorian era bromance continues with Holmes and Watson pursuing Moriarty. Opens wide on Friday, Dec. 16.



The Sitter

I will say this wacky movie-via-Mad-Libs ("fill in zany situation," "fill in name of illicit substance") is probably better for being rated R and not PG or PG-13. Sure, you're being stabbed by a hot poker, but at least it isn't a dull hot poker. Occasionally, some of the oh-so-purposefully X-treme situations are even, well, not funny but not aggressively not-funny either. They are tepidly not funny. If they were in a better movie, you might even laugh at them.

What keeps *The Sitter* from being a total unwatchable poopfest is the way in which the movie decides to show us Noah's sensitive side — his relationship with his mom, the way he does actually try to help the kids deal with some of the more difficult facets of their own lives, a budding friendship he develops with a nerdy beauty named Roxanne (Kylie Bunbury) — a girl who had been at college with him and is clearly so much saner than Marisa. Sure, this feelings stuff is a lump of clay added on to this lopsided sculpture, but it's a piece you don't mind contemplating a bit.

Which makes you think that there was a smarter movie with better comedy in there somewhere but nobody took the time to dig it out. **C-**

Rated R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material and some violence. Directed by David Gordon Green and written by Brian Gatewood and Alessandro Tanaka, The Sitter *is an hour and 21 minutes and distributed by 20th Century Fox.*

New Year's Eve (PG-13)

People learn lessons about love in its various forms — romantic, familial, of life — in *New Year's Eve*, a tedious, nerve-fraying short story collection about Dec. 31 in New York City.

This is what we get for paying money to see *Valentine's Day*. Let this be a lesson to us.

So, on this day:

• Sad-sack assistant Ingrid (Michelle Pfeiffer) decides to check off all the items on her bucket list with help from hyper squirrel Paul (Zac Efron).

• One pregnant couple (Jessica Biel, Seth Meyers) competes against another couple (Sarah Paulson, Til Schweiger) to try to have the first baby of the new year and win $20,000 in cash.

• A stock Katherine Heigl-character-ish chef (Katherin Heigl) is all wound up by a big gala event featuring rock star Jensen (Jon Bon Jovi), who is also her ex-boyfriend. Sofia Vergara appears in this storyline for comic relief and to, in the final scenes, wear a dress so ridiculous it can make Heigl's hideous dress look OK (it doesn't work; Heigl's still looks worse).

• An out-of-work New Year's Eve Scrooge (Ashton Kutcher) gets stuck in an elevator with an aggravating Jensen backup singer (Lea Michele, who can stop already).

• An aggravating costume designer (Sarah Jessica Parker, who also needs to cool it) can't quite bring herself to let her teenage daughter (Abigail Breslin) go out for New Year's Eve and so, naturally, the girl runs away and the mother spends all night looking for her.

• A playboy (Josh Duhamel) considers whether or not to reconnect with the mysterious woman he met last New Year's Eve.

• The woman (Hilary Swank) running the ball drop in Times Square deals with an assortment of problems, all with the help of a cop played by Ludacris.

• And, perhaps not realizing just what kind of shoddy affair they've involved themselves with, Robert De Niro plays a dying patient whose company on his last night is a nurse played by Halle Berry who has her own New Year's heartache.

Some of the characters' stories weave in and out, some never meet. Doesn't matter, they're all uninteresting and, as we well know going in, all of them will end with some kind of big warm hug.

What's the New Year's equivalent for "bah humbug"?

The performances range from "not embarrassing" to "dopey" and the stories fall on the spectrum between "barely tolerable" and "aaagh, my eyes!" Some of them feel as though the writers forgot to write them all the way through. Some feel like they were written solely for the purpose of having a funny moment in the trailer. None of these storylines are ever the least bit surprising or intriguing for any reason.

Let's all save our money and hope they don't already have *Flag Day* or *Columbus Day* in the works. **D**

Rated PG-13 for some language including some sexual references. Directed by Garry Marshall and written by Katherine Fugate, New Year's Eve *is an hour and 58 minutes long and distributed by Warner Brothers.*

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Movies outside the cineplex

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11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org

• ***The Descendants*** (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 16, through Sun., Dec. 18, at 1, 3:35, 6:10 & 8:45 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 19, through Thurs., Dec. 22, at 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• ***The Skin I Live In*** (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 5:25 p.m.

• ***The Way*** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 2:05 p.m.

• ***Legacy: Austria's Influence on American Skiing*** Thurs., Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.

• ***Revenge of the Electric Car*** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, through Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 19, 5:30 & 7:30 (with a post-film discussion to follow the last screening).

• ***Young Adult*** (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, through Sun., Dec. 18, at 1:05, 3:15, 5:40 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec, 19, through Thurs., Dec. 22, at 2:30, 5:40 & 7:50 p.m.

• ***Joyeux Noel*** (PG-13, 2006) Wed., Dec. 21, through Sun., Dec. 25, at 2 & 7 p.m.

• ***Metropolis*** (1927) Sat., Dec. 31, at 7 p.m.

• ***Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock*** a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.

• ***More Than a Month*** a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.

• ***Hell and Back Again*** a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., April 17, at 6 p.m.

• ***Strong*** a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., May 15, at 6 p.m.

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Main Street in Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com

• ***Take Shelter*** (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***Midnight in Paris*** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***J. Edgar*** (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, through Thurs., Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

• ***Moneyball*** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, through Thurs., Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

• ***Holiday Inn*** (1942) Sat., Dec. 17, at 4:30 p.m.

• ***It's a Wonderful Life*** (1946) Sun., Dec. 18, at 4:30 p.m.

• ***The Circus*** (1928), a film starring Charlie Chaplin, Sun., Jan. 1, at 4:30 p.m.

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.francoamericancentrenh.com

• Cinema Mardi, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.

• ***A Christmas Tale*** (2008) on Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

• ***Incendies*** (R, 2010) on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

• ***Heartbreaker*** (G, 2010) on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.

• ***L'Auberge Espagnole*** (R, 2002) on Tues., March 20, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• **Canadian Labor International Film Festival:** featuring *Breathtaking* (2010, a look at the asbestos industry), *Locked Out* (2011, unionized borax miners), *Triangle: Remembering the Fire* (2011, documentary about the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire), on Monday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Free.

• ***Meet Me in St. Louis*** (1944) Wed., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

• ***Toy Story 3*** (PG, 2010) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Man with the Movie Camera*** (1929) Tues., Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment.

• ***The Music Never Stopped*** (2011) Wed., Jan. 4, at 1 p.m.

• ***Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides*** (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m.

• ***Water World*** (PG-13, 1995) Wed., Jan. 18, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Adjustment Bureau*** (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 25, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Conspirator*** (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Kiss*** (1929) silent film with musical accompaniment, Tues., Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.

• ***Rocky*** (PG, 1976) Wed., Feb. 8, at 1 p.m.

• ***Time Traveler's Wife*** (PG-13, 2009) Wed., Feb. 14, at 1 p.m.

• ***The Pelican Brief*** (PG-13, 1993) Wed., Feb. 15, at 1 p.m.

• ***Back to the Future*** (PG, 1985) Wed., Feb. 22, at 1 p.m.

• **Family Movie Afternoon** Mon., Feb 27, at 2 p.m.

• ***African Cats*** (G, 2011) Wed., Feb. 29, at 1 p.m.

• ***Hangman's House*** (1928) silent film with live musical accompaniment, Tues., March 6, at 6 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• ***Mr. Popper's Penguins*** (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.

• ***Kung Fu Panda 2*** (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.

• ***Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 30, at 3 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, www.concordpubliclibrary.net

• ***White Christmas*** (1954) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

• ***Soul Surfer*** (PG, 2011) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

NHTI

Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-7185, www.nhti.edu

• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.

• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.

• ***Midnight in Paris*** (PG-13, 2011) Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

• ***Kung Fu Panda 2*** (PG, 2011) Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m.

• ***The Tempest*** (PG-13, 2010) Tues., Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org. Some of these films are being screened at Music Hall Loft, at 131 Congress St. See website for details.

• ***The Mill and the Cross*** (NR, 2011) Tues., Dec. 20, through Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.

• ***Martha Marcy May Marlene*** (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.

• ***Dolphin Tale*** (PG, 2011) Tues., Dec. 27, through Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St.., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com

• ***Brighton Rock*** (NR, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***The Whale*** (G, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 17, at 4:45, 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 18, at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 19, through Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

• ***Into the Abyss*** (NR, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 30, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 31, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 1, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 2, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Give the gift of music

(or an actual musician)

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

While you're shopping for that special music fan, a barrage of the tried and true will compete for your holiday dollars. We're talking deluxe packages. At the top of the pile is U2's aptly named "Über Edition" of the 1991 album *Achtung Baby*, a numbered limited-edition 10-disc set with seven vinyl singles and a bunch of other goodies (including the follow-up, *Zooropa*) to justify a price north of $400. The Rolling Stones (*Some Girls*, $150), Pink Floyd (*Dark Side of the Moon*, $120) and The Who (*Quadrophenia*, $130) have each released coffee table versions of big albums. Even Nirvana's *Nevermind* receives the completist treatment — five discs, one a DVD with rare performances, and a 90-page book for around $150.

But here's a bit of contrarian advice: forget about legacy bands. Read Simon Reynolds' *Retromania: Pop Culture's Addiction to Its Own Past*, or give it as a gift ($14 paperback) to someone stuck in a classic rock rut. Reynolds frets that it's an unhealthy focus spelling the end of originality.

He may be right, but here's how to prove him wrong: buy something new and local. For hard rock fans, *The Black Harvest* from Salem's Armor for the Broken is a good choice. Country music lovers will enjoy Jandee Lee Porter's latest, *Whisky and Wine*. Jazz doesn't get any better than Mike Stockbridge's *Ama*. Hip-hop artist Quiet Akillez dropped the *Official Manchester Video* on YouTube earlier this year, featuring Da Chief, and QA has a new album, *The Secret*.

Acquiring the music can be tricky with the industry in its present state. Brick and mortar stores like Newbury Comics and Bull Moose have a lot of local stuff — *Before the Day*, a fine new disc by the rootsy band Old Abode, is available at the former. But experimental rocker Otto Kinzel prefers fans pick up his unique concept album *The Zodiac Killer* at iTunes. "I'm trying to use it as much as possible, hoping to get enough sales to create a 'buzz' as an indie artist amongst all the national/major label peeps," he says.

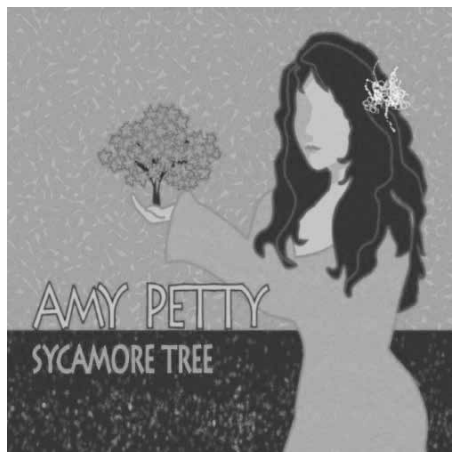
You can give the gift of music, or if you're so inclined, the actual musician. For a few hundred bucks, hold a house concert and invite some friends. Amy Petty has a great new Christmas album, *Sycamores*, and she does a terrific guest turn on Tim Janis's three-disc *American Christmas Carol* ($20 at www.qvc.com). You can book Petty to perform in your living room — "My absolute favorite kind of concert," she says. Send an e-mail to www.amypetty.com. To find artists available for a private serenade, go to www.newenglandfolknetwork.com.

If that's a bit too intimate, there are other ways available. Kickstarter (www.kickstarter.com) is a website used by artists to fund projects, everything from small tours to recording. Local comic Nick Lavallee made *The Other Guy* that way; contributors received everything from pre-release copies of the CD/DVD set to custom YouTube tributes (for a $250 donation). Keene Americana quintet GirlandPiano recently completed *The Wayward Ark* (available as a digital download on girlandpiano.bandcamp.com) and is soliciting backers for mastering, mixing and other production costs. Donate $500, and the band will write a song in your honor.

There's always traditional live music; tickets to a show make a great gift. The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord is sweetening its deal. Buying a gift card worth $25 or more unlocks a two-for-one deal on tickets to several upcoming performances, including a tribute to Paul "King of Jazz" Whiteman (Jan. 15), Comedian Lenny Clarke (Feb. 25), Irish traditionalists Danú (March 11) and evenings devoted to the music of Queen (March 29), Louis Armstrong (May 6) and Joni Mitchell (May 11). See the full list at www.ccanh.com.

Hard rock fans will jump for joy to find tickets in their holiday stocking for Gigantour, a Jan. 29 concert at Lowell's Tsongas Center featuring Megadeth, Motorhead, Volbeat and Lacuna Coil ($39.50 & $49.50 at www.tsongascenter.com. A revamped L.A. Guns with Steve Riley & Phil Lewis hits Nashua's Junkyard Nightclub on Jan. 27 ($15 at www.lonewolfjames.com) and Taproot play a multi-band show Jan. 28 at Boston Billiard Club in Nashua ($20 at www.ticketmaster.com).





Check out new offerings from Jandee Lee Porter (above) and Amy Petty (below). Courtesy photo.

Local rock bands get into the giving spirit

Free Christmas party is a thank-you to fans

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

Robby Gagnon feels pretty good about the Manchester music scene — so pleased, in fact, that he and a few musician friends decided to give local fans a gift. On Sunday, Dec. 18, at Mad Bob's, Gagnon's band Lords of Audio, Craving Lucy, Drifting Son, My Sister Will and Eden's Lie will perform what's billed as a ManchVegas Rockin' Christmas Party.

The giving mood, in Gagnon's view, is a natural response to the local scene's largesse.

"Year after year, the people come out and spend their hard-earned money to support our charities and benefits, to buy our music, T-shirts, et cetera," he says. "This is one where we don't want them to spend any money."

It's also a gift to a venue that remains a big supporter of original music.

"I told the bands we're not charging the club or the people," Gagnon says. "We're putting it on for free as a thank you."

After worrying for a long time that the good times were long past, "we've noticed more bands on the scene, which is a plus because more bands means more fans," Gagnon says. "Because every band has some, and now Milly's and Mad Bob's are doing more original stuff. It's a long slow road … but more bands participating puts us in the right frame of mind, the right direction."

Jeff Richards will serve double duty at the show, playing guitar with his long-time band Eden's Lie and working behind the drum kit with My Sister Will. The band is buoyed by the success of *Epiphany Season*, a 21-track opus the prog-rockers released in late 2010. Fan support is also encouraging. A run of Eden's Lie T-shirts sold out and plans are in place to follow up with a remixed, pared-down version of the double CD this spring.

"I've known Jeff since late 90's, he's a real supporter of local music," says Gagnon, noting that he's also a fan of Richards' Internet radio show, which features several area bands. Though usually a quartet, Eden's Lie will be joined by guitarist John Maggio (Last Laugh, Diometri) for Sunday's show. In the spirit of the season, the band promises to revive their 2003 holiday song, "All I Want (For Christmas)" for their performance.

Craving Lucy is another mainstay band, on the scene for almost a decade. Last spring, they welcomed bass player Chris Lester into

Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Local largesse:** Manchester Music Mill, a hub for area musicians, gathers a few of the region's finest to benefit Bundles of Books' annual drive. Craving Lucy, Duty Free, Chad LaMarsh, Josh Logan, Nate Comp & Demetri and Lisa Guyer all perform. That's just the advertised talent — an open mike could provide some interesting moments. Attend the Holiday Music Jam on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. at The Grand, 44 61 Canal St. in Manchester. See www.manchestermusicmill.com. The free show is all ages until 9 p.m. and 18+ after.

• **Christmas classics:** The Boston String Quartet put a different spin on the traditional, weaving modern choices like "All I Want For Christmas Is You" around staples — "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies" and "We Three Kings." Vocalist Pan Morigan joins them for an evening of music drawing from Irish and British Isles roots, dressed in holiday finery. Attend Celtic Christmas Extravaganza on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St. in Nashua. Tickets are $15 to $18 at www.bostonstringquartet.com.

• **Non-zero:** Christian McNeill doesn't have a website or a Facebook page. What he does have is a killer sound, which is why his latest single, "Zero," was the Coolest Song in the World on Sirius/XM Radio's Underground Garage channel a few weeks back. McNeil ventures out of his familiar Boston confines for a Seacoast performance; his live shows are rollicking, energized affairs. See Christian McNeill on Friday, Dec. 16, at 9:30 p.m. at Dolphin Striker, 15 Bow St. in Portsmouth, www.dolphinstriker.com.

• **Pass the axe:** A performance by talented singer/songwriter Chris LaVancher culminates with an open mike at a monthly folk series in Warner. LaVancher began writing songs in his kitchen, raw introspective material living near the crossroads of Johnny Cash and John Prine. Fortunately, he was coaxed out of his cocoon. Attend the Brook House Songwriters Circle on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 8:30 p.m. at Alpine Grove, 19 South Depot Road, 111A in Hollis. Tickets are $12 in advance and $15 at the door. For more, go to www.alpinegrove.com.

• **Twangin':** Fronted by three talented female singers, Liz Frame and The Kickers deliver sweet harmony with a whiskey back. There's a bit of Neko Case mixed in with traditional country, and the end result is fresh Americana that deserves a wider audience. They perform a benefit show for Farmsteads of New England with support from opening act John Longo. See Liz Frame & The Kickers on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Verdant Pastures Auditorium, 38 Ladd's Lane in Epping. Tickets are $15; go to www.verdantpastures.com.

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the fold; original bassist Nate Comp moved to guitar. Lester is well known as a member of Mama Kicks; he also spent time on the road with Godsmack singer Sully Erna's Avalon tour this year. The band's latest single, "Ordinary God," a frenetic melodic rocker showcasing Comp's ample shredding skills, looks to gain the same traction as 2010's "Changes," which received airplay on WGIR and Sirius XM's Octane channel.

Leddie Jackson was an area fixture before health issues sidelined him for much of the decade. But after what he calls a "return from the dead" in 2010, Jackson's band Drifting Son is busy making up for lost time, recording new songs — the churning "Lil' Big Man" came out a few months ago — and playing dates throughout the state. They're particularly well loved at Milly's Tavern, where they routinely arrive with extra lighting, drum risers and other accoutrements befitting a big concert date.

My Sister Will is led by Jace Longway, who began performing in the late '90s with Cinch and has worked with several bands since. MSW debuted a new lineup recently, Gagnon says. At the end of the night, Nate Comp will lead an all-star band, which will include a few surprise guests. Details were still being worked out at press time.

The bands appearing are representative of the close camaraderie existing in the Manchester music community. All were a natural fit for the show.

"It would be nice to pull in some other bands, but I'm not sure they deserve it," Gagnon says. "These are the bands that support the scene and other bands month in and out. They show up at other bands' shows," and demonstrate a commitment to helping live music thrive.



Robby Gagnon. Courtesy photo.

It takes one to know one, as the saying goes. "Bands are playing for little or no money. A lot of the time they make enough just to pay for gas," Gagnon says. "It's really about supporting the artists that are supporting the scene."

He remains positive while the numbers keep moving in the right direction.

"We see the crowds grow and we work harder, we're motivated to work more," Gagnon says. "When you start playing for packed rooms, you work harder because you don't want it to go away."

ManchVegas Rockin' Christmas Party
When: Sunday, Dec. 18, at 5 p.m.
Where: Mad Bob's Saloon, 342 Lincoln St. in Manchester
Performers include Craving Lucy, Lords of Audio, My Sister Will, Eden's Lie, Drifting Son and an all-star jam led by Nate Comp

Nightlife Listings

Music, comedy & parties

• **NEW HORIZONS BENEFIT** at Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event will feature live music, appetizers and a silent auction. Tickets cost $10 at Milly's, New Horizons for New Hampshire and helpnewhorizons.org ($15 at the door). Clothing, canned food and monetary donations will be accepted.

• **ED GERHARD** will perform his annual Christmas guitar concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, on Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $27 at the door if available, or $25 in advance at virtuerecords.com, Lovell Designs in Portsmouth, Exeter Music in Exeter, Ear Craft Music in Dover or by calling 664-7200.

• **TENLEY WESTBROOK** will perform Christmast for the Troops, a live concert and global webcast, at Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. The show can also be viewed online at tenleywestbrook.com. Donations for FreedomSong Foundation will be accepted at the door.

• **MAEVE** will perform a holiday concert at The Engine Room at Manchester Vineyard Church, 150 Dow St., Manchester, on Wed., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Dessert and refreshments will be served. Tickets cost $4 ($5 at the door) at theengineroom.manchestervineyard.com. Call 624-4080 for more information.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com, will be held on Sat., Dec. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. Beginners are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

• **WORLD MUSIC** will be performed by the Wildest Dreams Worldbeat Music Ensemble at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Sun., Jan. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. Call 673-2288 or email library@amherst.lib.nh.us to reserve a spot.

Bowling

• **BOUTWELL'S BOWLING CENTER** 152 N. State St., Concord, 224-0941.

• **LAKESIDE LANES** 2171 Candia Road, Manchester, 627-7722, lakesidelanes.com

• **LEDA LIGHTHOUSE** 340 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-4884, ledalanes.com

• **KING BOWLING LANES** 751 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9215, kingslanes.com

• **MERRIMACK TEN PIN CENTER** 698 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-0989, 8:30 a.m. to midnight.

• **SPARE TIME** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, stadium-tenpin.net

• **TONY'S LANES** 244 Elm St., Milford, 673-6673.

Chess

• **CHESS CLUB** open to players of all levels, 7 to 9 p.m. Fridays at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Call 589-4600.

In the spotlight



Chippy & the Ya Yas

Chippy and the Ya Yas will rock the stage of the Lamprey River Tavern, 110 Main St., Newmarket, on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 8:30 to 11 p.m. Band members include front man Chip Lang on lead guitar and vocals, rhythm guitarist Mike LaBranche, vocalist Mike "Pipes" Lang, bassist Doc Warnock (he also plays the cowbell) and percussionist Jim Bosko.

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Mike McGee at Slam Free

Former standup comedian embraces poetry

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Whether he is listening to poetry in Munich, Germany, Seattle, Wash., or Manchester, N.H., "Mighty" Mike McGee finds most poets can put the same emotion, concepts and rhythms into their performances but still be individual, unique and different.

"I can walk into any poetry venue and feel like I'm at home and that's the most amazing feeling," he said. "I feel like I belong."

McGee was working as an amateur standup comedian in San Jose, Calif., when his friend Jeff convinced him to check out a poetry open-mike night in 1998.

"I thought, 'How can standup fit in at a poetry open mike?'" McGee said. "I was not sold that I could do anything there, but [Jeff] dragged me down there and I fell in love with it."

McGee eventually began to enjoy poetry so much that he shifted his focus entirely from standup comedy to the art of spoken word. "I wanted to try to be funny and serious," he said.

When McGee entered the slam poetry world, he found it required participants to be more competitive than the open mikes did. Open mikes were free form; slams had rules. It took four or five years for McGee to become confident in his performances at poetry slams. He was named National Poetry Slam Champion in 2003 as a member of the San Jose Poetry Slam Team and won the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship in 2006.

McGee has made a living at slam poetry for the last nine years, touring internationally, including at the University of Paris and at the Glastonbury music festival. He has appeared on National Public Radio and Def Poetry Jam on HBO. He will perform at Slam Free or Die at Milly's Tavern in Manchester on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

"Now [slam poetry] feels very, very normal … but it's still kind of surprising and really exciting. It hasn't normalized so much to the point where it's dull," McGee said. "It feels right. Like I feel like this is what I was supposed to do."

McGee, who now lives in Portland, Ore., said he felt there was a big learning curve in trying to bring serious aspects to his writing. "It was a little harder than I anticipated," he said. "It was almost like writing drama for myself…. It's one thing to write a joke and know that people will laugh at it. It's another thing to write something that will connect with the audience, that everyone feels."

McGee also found it challenging to adhere to the three-minute time limit at slams, as he had been used to writing 12- to 20-minute sets for standup. "You only have three minutes to say what you want to say … you have far less time to express yourself in an efficient way, a concise way," he said.

Slam poetry writing must also sound conversational, not like it's being read from a paper, McGee said. "It has to be performed," he said.

"Humor really helps," he said. "The two championship competitions I won I did a blend of humor, something a little more bittersweet and something very serious, or loving. I do write my fair share of love poems as well."

McGee said his approachable and friendly personality also likely shines through his performances and help him score better.


"Mighty" Mike McGee. Courtesy photo.

"I'm not playing a role. I'm not being a character on stage," he said. "I'm being me and performing the things I believe in."

Judges are selected at random for slams and are not usually educated in the "art of poetry slam competitions," McGee said. Instead, the judges go with their gut and dole out scores based on what they like.

"I think I'm just likeable," McGee said of his success. "I don't necessarily think I'm better than people I've competed against in the past … on any other night they could beat me as well."

Having a strong popular slam poetry venue in a city can mean two things, McGee said. It can mean that the community has a strong arts scene, but on occasion it can also be a call for there to be more art outlets in the area.

"With public slams you can get a sense of how integrated the community is, in terms of the arts," he said, adding that more slams have been established likely because of how simple it is to start them.

"You just need a room with a mike and enough people who understand how slam works to actually facilitate the event itself," McGee said.

The Slam Free or Die event at which McGee will perform will serve as a qualifying open slam during which 10 local poets will vie for a spot on the Slam Free or Die 2012 National Slam Poetry Team. The national competition will be held in Charlotte, N.C., in August. McGee shared some advice for the slam team hopefuls.

"They need to focus on why they wrote the poems … I would say to just really know that no one in the audience wants them to fail," he said. "Everyone wants them to go up and succeed."

See "Mighty" Mike McGee at Slam Free or Die
When: Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.
Where: Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester
Tickets: $3 at the door
More info: slamfreeordie@gmail.com; mikemcgee.net

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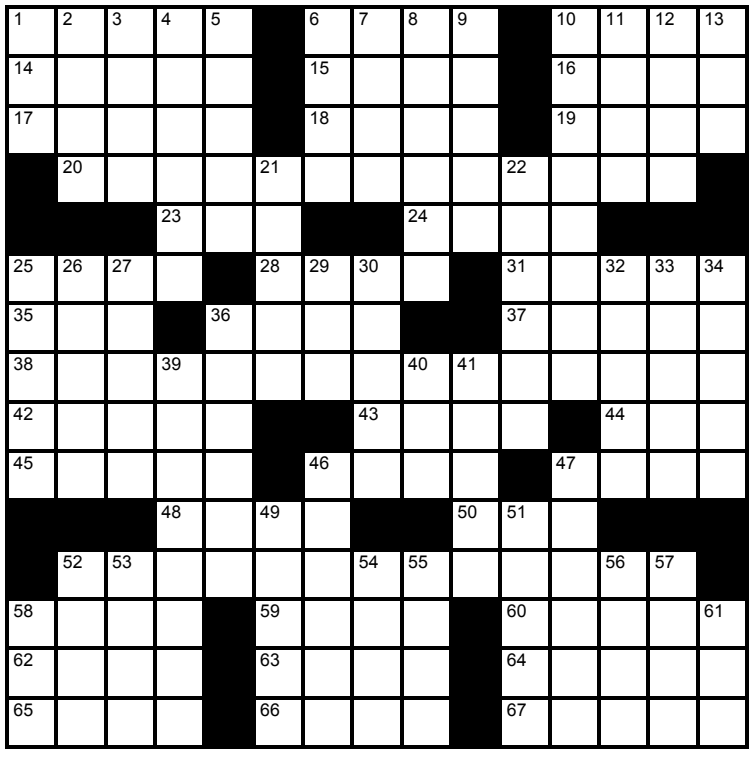
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073198

Son of a puzzle man — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

1. "Was the son of a preacher man, yes __ __" (2,3)
6. 80s Starship ballad
10. "Where you drink champagne and it tastes just like cherry __"
14. Spin Doctors 'Hard To ___'
15. Biblical National song?
16. Hallelujah-inspired Kid Rock song?
17. Aerosmith 'I Don't Want To __ __ Thing' (4,1)
18. Opposite of hi-fi (hyph)
19. Parking lot shot, w/out ice
20. 'Semi-Charmed Life' band (5,3,5)
23. Mika 'I __ You'
24. 'Cum On Feel The Noize' Quiet __
25. What rockin' song gives you (7,6)
28. Metallica drummer Ulrich
31. What shock rocker will do
35. U2 producer/Roxy Music Brian
36. Drummer Krupa
37. What manufactured pop stars lack
38. Frankie Valli "You're just _____, can't take my eyes off you" (3,4,2,2,4)
42. Led Zeppelin 'Out On The ___'
43. Guns And Roses '__ N' The Bedouins'
44. Music industry powers that be
45. Kiddie-singer Peter
46. "I can't change my __" The Verve 'Bitter Sweet Symphony'
47. Metallica 'Nothing __ Matters'
48. "Love, love __ __, you know I love you" (2,2)
50. 'New Miserable Experience' __ Blossoms
52. Santana 'Hope You're ___ ___'
58. Might be in mezzanine
59. Dokken 'Tooth And __'
60. What manager has to pick during breakup
62. Jim of Simple Minds
63. 'God's __' Kimmie Rhodes
64. Stevie Wonder 'Moments ___ Moments'
65. Manager, e.g.
66. Thompson Twins '__ Me Now'
67. Springsteen's 'Freeze-Out' avenue



Down

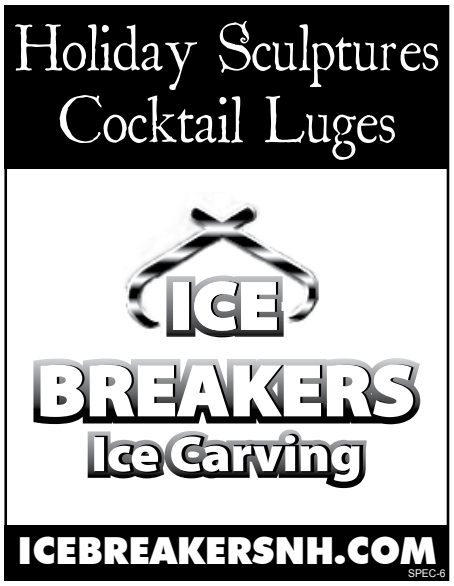
1. Folky band that sews?
2. Sought-after sign when bad band plays
3. "I __ I was the full moon shining off your Camaro's hood" PJ
4. What engineer will do to producer
5. "Stop and __, I think I'm moving but I go nowhere" OneRepublic
6. Dishwalla 'Life For __'
7. Beyonce 'If I Were __ __' (1,3)
8. What manager does for band
9. Trapt song for the accused?
10. Meat Loaf "Does it get any better? ____ any worse?" (3,2,3)
11. Prodigy song about horror flick?
12. Compliments rhythm guitarist
13. 'Movies' Alien __ Farm
21. STP bassist Robert
22. '70 Velvet Underground album
25. Chanter in Michael Jackson's 'Liberian Girl' Mbulu
26. AC/DC 'Cover You __ __' (2,3)
27. Robert Plant 'Ship Of ___'
29. Kiss 'Tomorrow __ Tonight'
30. "Old fashioned" rock
32. Deep Purple song about 4th month?
33. What virtuoso does
34. Foo Fighters 'Times Like ___'
36. God music
39. Shapeshifters 'Sacred ____'
40. 'Diesel And Dust' band Midnight __
41. Cream classic off 'Goodbye'
46. Peter Hook of New Order's 90s band
47. Complete Spinanes song?
49. Big band singer Shore
51. Beck 'Where __ __' (3,2)
52. "I can __ it coming in the air tonight"
53. Robert __ Keen
54. Sean Kingston's was 'Beautiful', Weird Al's was 'Ugly'
55. Warped tour hardcores from Tuscon
56. Bass amp maker
57. Rehearsal space bill
58. Sometimes blended with punk
61. All-female Swedes Drain __

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Written By: Todd Santos

12/8

A	L	E	C		T	A	S	T	E		A	R	E	A
N	O	A	H		O	M	A	H	A		R	I	N	G
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				D	I	A				D	O	G		
	C	A	M	E	R	A	P	E	R	S	O	N	S	
L	O	L	A		B	L	A	D	E		T	O	O	L
A	M	A	N		E	L	L	I	S		I	N	M	E
B	A	N	S		R	I	M	E	S		D	E	A	D











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Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd, 622-6564
Holidays Bar and Grill
346 Hooksett Road, 483-0880

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub Nippo Lake Golf Course, 550 Province Rd. 664-2030

Barnstead
Barnstead Music Hall 96 Maple St., 269-2000

Bedford
Bedford Village Inn (BVI)
2 Olde Bedford Way, 472-2001

Belmont
The Lodge at Belmont
Route 106, 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd, 528-3244
Vineyards Restaurant
171 DW Highway

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St., 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8308

Brookline
The Loft at the Grange
12 Main St., 315-9423

Candia
Henderson's Pickin' Parlor
179 Raymond Rd, 483-5001

Concord
The Barley House
132 N. Main St., 228-6363
Green Martini
6 Pleasant St., 223-6672
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave., 224-5669
Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd, 226-0533
Makris
354 Sheep Davis, 225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St., 228-9833
The Red Blazer
72 Manchester St., 224-4101

Contoocook
Beech Hill Farm
107 Beech Hill Rd

Davisville
Muddy Pond Jazz Deal
grounds of Davisville Flea Market, 805 Route 103 East (exit 7 off I-89), 746-4000

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
4 North Road, 463-7374

Derry
Adams Opera House
29 W. Broadway/ Rte 102
Brookstone Grille
14 Route 11 E., 328-9250
Coffee Factory
55 Crystal Ave., 432-6006
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway, 965-3490
Steve-N-James Tavern
187 Rockingham, 434-0600

Dover
American Legion Post 8
640 Central Ave.
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave.,742-4226
Dover Elks Lodge
282 Durham Road
Dover Bowl
887 Central Ave., 742-9632
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St., 749-3838
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave., 742-9632
Fury's Publick House
312 DW Highway, 617-3633
Jimmy's Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St., 740-4477
Kelley's Row
421 Central Ave., 750-7081
The Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108, 743-3045
RJ's
83 Washington St.
Roger's Pizza
869 Central Ave., 742-9870
Station House
11 Fourth St., 743-4489
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St., 740-0006

Durham
Acorns Restaurant
15 Strafford Ave., 862-2815

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
Windymere Dr., 736-9656

Epping
American Legion
232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125)
Holy Grail Food & Spirits
64 Main St., 679-9559

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
10 Columbus Ave., 772-3856

Franklin
Artemis Event Center
20 Canal St., 934-2000

Gilford
Beans & Greens
245 Intervale Road-Rte 11B, 293-2853
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd, 293-8700
Gunstock Ski Area
719 Cherry Valley, 293-4341
Patrick's
18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

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Village Trestle
25 Main St., 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Road, 668-1088

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The Pasta Loft
220 E. Main St., 378-0092
Route 111 Village Square
472 State St., 329-6879

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Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd., 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd, 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd, 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd, 926-8322
Sea Shell Stage
on Ocean Blvd.
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd, 929-2122,
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd, 967-4771

Henniker
Daniel's
Main St., 428-7621
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road, 888-728-7732
The Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd., 428-8511

Hillsborough
American Legion Post 59
538 West Main St.

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Road, 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd, 621-9298
Deerhead Sportsman Club
314 Londonderry Turnpike, 623-9083

Hudson
AJ's Sports Bar & Grill
11 Tracy Lane,718-1102
JD Chaser's
2B Burnham Rd, 886-0792
King's Court
222 Central St., 821-5100

Kingston
The Kingston
1686 House Tavern
127 Main St., 642-3637
Rick's on Mill Pond
92 Route 125., 642-3353

Laconia
Anthony's Pier Restaurant
263 Lakeside Ave., 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St., 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd, 366-5511
Cactus Jacks
1182 Union Ave., 528-7800
The Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave., 366-4411
Fratello's
799 Union Ave., 528-2022
Margate Resort
76 Lake St., 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave., 366-2665
Patio Garden Restaurant
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St., 527-0043
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St., 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia, 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant and Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd, 437-2022
Mayflower Grange
535 Mammoth Rd, 867-3077
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Road, 434-2660

Loudon
Graverobbers Coffeehouse
Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478

Manchester
900 Degrees
50 Dow St., 641-0900
American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43
56 Boutwell St., 623-9467
American Legion Post #79
35 W. Brook St.
American Legion Sweeney Post
251 Maple St., 623-9145
Black Brimmer
1087 Elm St., 669-5523
Bo's Riverside
500 Commercial St.,625-4444
Boynton's Taproom
155 Dow St., 623-7778
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St., 621-9111
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St., 625-9656
Club 313
93 S. Maple St., 628-6813
Delux
36 Lowell St., 644-1180
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Rd, 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St., 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St., 836-5251
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St., 627-2922
Fratello's
155 Dow Street, 624-2022
Gaucho's Churrascaria
62 Lowell St., 669-9460
Grand Nightclub & Lounge, 61 Canal St., 518.5547
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149 Hanover St., 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St., 494-6225
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St., 203-1458
Jillian's Billiard Club
50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636
Johnny Bad's
542 Elm St., 222-9191
Jokers
1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947
Lafayette Club
387 Canal St., 623-9323
Lazy Nick's Coffee House
362 Huse Road, 232-7187
Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley St., 622-1021
Mad Bob's Saloon
342 Lincoln St., 669-3049
McGarvey's
1097 Elm St., 627-2721
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Mulligan's
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33 S. Commercial St., 232-3054
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253 Wilson St., 626-5866
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300 DW Highway, 279-3003
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312 DW Highway, 279-3313

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641 DW Highway, 429-2022
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15 Cottage St., 673-9804
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168 Elm St., 249-5214
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63 Union Sq., 249-9222
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The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
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452 Amherst St., 889-5871
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650 Amherst St.
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Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
Holiday Inn, 888-1551
Lafayette Club
34 High St, 889-9860
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8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St., 880-8686
Penuche's Ale House
4 Canal St., 595-9831
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St., 886-3501
The Polish American Club
15 School St., 889-9819
Sausage King
53 Main St., 204-5110
Simple Gifts Coffee House
58 Lowell St.
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
522 Amherst St., 882-6026
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Villa Banca
194 Main St., 598-0500

New Boston
Gravity Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011

Newmarket
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St., 659-3696
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St., 659-2329
Stone Church
5 Granite St., 650-7700

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

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Harlow's Pub
3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
Hadley Road

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St., 819-4947
The Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd,382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St., 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4337
Gas Light Co.
64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St., 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755
The Music Hall
104 Congress St., 433-3100
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr., 430-9450
Players Ring Theater
105 Marcy St., 436-8123
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St., 431-0148,
Press Room
77 Daniel St.,431-5186
The Red Door
107 State St., 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr., 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Square, 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St., 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St., 436-9289
The Wet Bar
172 Hanover St.

Raymond
Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East
4 Essex Drive
Freetown Yankee Market 58 Route 27, 895-3418

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Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road, 328-9013
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway, 870-0045
Murray's Tavern
326 S. Broadway, 894-9100
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032
The Varsity Club
67 Main St., 898-4344

Seabrook
American Legion Post 70
169 Walton Road
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd, 474-6001
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Rd, 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107, Seabrook, 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd, 760-7230

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters
72 Portsmouth Ave.778-9711

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road, 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Methodist Church, Route 11

Tilton
Thirsty Crows
504 Laconia Road, 524-5558

Wilton
Pine Hill Auditorium
Pine Hill Waldorf School, 77 Pine Hill Dr.

Windham
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568

Thursday, Dec. 15

Auburn
Holiday's: Rose Kula

Candia
Henderson's: acoustic open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Hermanos: Tim Wildman & Whit Symmes
Tandy's: DJ
True Brew: Michael Crane and Ben Foote, Doc Rogers

Dover
Barley Pub: bluegrass jam w/ Steve Roy
Brick House: Nate Laban
Fury's: Palefighter
Kelley's Row: DJ Evaredy
RJ's: DJ J-Smooth
Station House: open mike w/ Dave Nappy Band

Epping
Holy Grail: Good Score

Gilford
Patrick's: Tim Theriault

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Beloved Few

Village Square: DJ

Laconia
Pitman's Freight Room: Johannes Wallmann

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: Ivory & Ivory

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Friday After Five
Club 313: DJ
Element: DJ Jason
Joker's: Downtown Dave and the Deep Pockets
L&M Grand: DJ Coolz
Pochito's: Charlie Christos
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Graton Tim Josh Band
Starbucks: Andrea Crocker
Strange Brew: Keller and Company
Wild Rover: blues jam w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Matt Langley

Merrimack
Homestead: Steve Sibulkin

Milford
Chapanga's: open mike w/ Driven
Pasta Loft: Paul Fudin

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's: Josh Logan Band

Newmarket
Stone Church: Psylab w/ DJ Pariah

Newton
Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: bluegrass jam w/ JT

Portsmouth
Press Room: Jerry Tillett
Red Door: Local Heroes w/ Jack Blackwater
Rudi's: Jarod Steer

Salem
Murray's: blues jam w/ Steve Devine

Friday, Dec. 16

Allenstown
Ground Zero: Ground Zero House Band, A Need For Reason, Patterns, Oath Of Sons, Stand Like Giants

Concord
Barley House: Blue Ribbon Band
Green Martini: Casual Encounter
Makris: Arthur James and Northbound
Pit Road Lounge: Stone Blue Band
Red Blazer: Jim Tyrell
Tandy's: DJ
True Brew: Buffalo Plaid

Dover
Barley Pub: Jim Dozet
Brick House: A Minor Revolution, Catastrophic OK, OC45, Red Sky Mary
Kelley's Row: Livin The Dream
RJ's: DJ Big Pez

Epping
Holy Grail: Family Affair

Exeter
Shooter's: DJ BiggZ

Gilford
Patrick's: Randy Arrant

Goffstown
Village Trestle: acoustic



On the scene



Band members of the world, unite and take over

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

… or you, with a club…

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if *you* regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

… and if you are a music fan…

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Savant Squad
Village Square: Cooper's Escape

Hudson
Linda's: Point of Entry

Kingston
1686 House Tavern: Mike Belkas

Laconia
Fratello's: Paul Warnick

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Kieran McNally
Whippersnappers: Jimmy's Down

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Hypercane
City Sports Grille: Classic Invasion
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: Mirage
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Get-Away Lounge: Max Voltage
Jam Factory: Seven Seconds Deep, Half In The Bag, Cruise Control
Milly's: Sugar House Fizz, Tom Dixon Band
Murphy's: Without Paris
Raxx: DJ Mike
Rocko's: The Jealous Sea
Shaskeen: Ron Noyes Band
Strange Brew: Love Dogs

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, DJ

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
Clark's: Charlie Christos
Pasta Loft: Groove Authority

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ Lou, DJ Danjah

In the spotlight



Coffee and folk tunes

Stop by True Brew Barista, 3 Bicentennial Square, Concord, 225-2776, truebrewbarista.com, for some guitar-pickin' old-school American folk and blues tunes performed by "Doc" Rogers on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 8 to 10 p.m.

In the spotlight



Holiday music at The Engine Room

Fresh off the release of their holiday album *The Soul Felt Its Worth*, Maeve will perform at the Christmas Celebration at The Engine Room at Manchester Vineyard Church, 150 Dow St., Manchester, on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. The Marblehead, Mass.- based group was formed in 2001 and has since performed at clubs, coffeehouses, colleges, festivals, churches and women's conferences along the East Coast, according to a press release. Tickets cost $4 at theenginegineroom.manchestervineyard.com ($5 at the door). Dessert and refreshments will be served.

Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's: One Fine Mess
Haluwa: The Workin' Stiffs Band
Martha's Exchange: DJ Spivak
Peddlers: Nimbus 9
Studio 99: young musicians open mike

Newmarket
Stone Church: Iron Heart Circus

Newton
Hen House: DJ

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: The Ghost Dinner Band

Plaistow
The Dugout: DJ Boo

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Fiandacaroo
Gaslight: Pat Foley, DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn: Marty England
The Page: DJ
Red Door: Paul Dailey, Dan Spurling
Press Room: Racky Thomas Band
Rudi's: Rob Gerry

Salem
Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ
Murray's: Nick Lovett

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Avalanche
Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, Dec. 17

Auburn
Holiday's: Haynes Band

Belmont
The Lodge: Natalie Turgeon Band

Bow
Chen Yang Li: The Lazy Boy Rockers

Concord
Green Martini: Lucas Gallo
Hermanos: Matt Poirier
Tandy's: DJ
True Brew: Wild Vine

Deerfield
Lazy Lion: Dwight Phetteplace

Dover
Barley Pub: Staggering Growlers
Brick House: All We Are, The Watkinsonics, James McGarvey
Kelley's Row: Chris Lester
RJ's: DJ

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: Tumbleweeds Band

Gilford
Patrick's: The Sundogs



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DEC. 2 - DEC. 21



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Body Wash	Care Items	Canned Meat	Meatballs	Pasta Sauce
Shampoo	Baby Wipes	Ravioli	Drinks	Baked Beans
Conditioner	Peanut Butter	Canned Chicken	Grated Cheese	Mayonnaise
				Ketchup

Parkland Medical Center

Parkland Medical Center - One Parkland Drive - Derry, New Hampshire - parklandmedicalcenter.com

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In the spotlight



Free Christmas concert

Catch Tenley Westbrook's Christmas concert live at Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, or online at tenleywestbrook.com, on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. Westbrook, a singer-songwriter who released her first solo album, *I Believe*, in 2008, will perform original Christmas music and both holiday and patriotic favorites. She will be joined at the performance by composer Tim Janis, John Paul and Daniel King. The show is free; donations for the FreedomSong Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports military personnel, will be accepted at the door.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Jeff Dearborn and the Contoocook Blues Society

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Chris & Matt
Village Square: The Ride

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Kim Riley
Whippersnappers: The Voice

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Tigerlily
City Sports Grille: Tom Dixon Band
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: Last Kid Picked
Fratello's: Steve Sibulkin
Jam Factory: Red Letter Reunion, The OBE Show
Murphy's: Nimbus 9
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge, Superfrog
Strange Brew: Mr. Nick
Wild Rover: Head Shop
The Yard: Ashley Hewitt and Walking the Line

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Paul Connor, The Harley Llamas

Merrimack
Homestead: Karen Grenier
Jade Dragon: The Slakas

Milford
Clark's: Josh Logan
J's Tavern: Raising Scarlet
Pasta Loft: Fatback

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Backstage: DJ
Fody's: The Visitors
Haluwa: The Workin' Stiffs Band
Martha's Exchange: DJ
Peddlers: Neon Hot Magic
Studio 99: open mike

Newmarket
Stone Church: Dub Apocalypse

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: Joshua Jones

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Kristen Marlo
Gaslight: Brian Gray, Keith Henderson, DJ JW
Hilton Garden Inn: Cormac
The Page: DJ
Press Room: jazz lunch w/ Larry Garland, The Serfs
Red Door: Lord Bass
Rudi's: Chris Burbank

Salem
Jocelyn's: DJ
Murray's: Still Breathing

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Zero Gravity

Sunday, Dec. 18

Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor

Dover
Barley Pub: Mike Walsh
Brick House: DJ Erich Kruger
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Wan-tu Blues Band blues jam, Travis Colby

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: The Beloved Few

Manchester
900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Jam Factory: Chris Dembro, Captain Easychord
Mad Bob's:Lords of Audio, Craving Lucy, Drifting Son
Milly's: Abigail Green, Elyse Therrien, James Bickford, Aggressor, Jack Smith, Katie King, Eifel, Xavi of 2 Battalion, Dismathis, Lyrical Deathwish, Stevie Jenko, That Kid Josh, Piff and Dilo, SIG, Sean Boogs, Urban Korruption, Kaz Elite
Penuche's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets
Rocko's: Drained Glory
Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers
Strange Brew: Acoustic Duo

Meredith
Giuseppe's: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Milford
Clark's: DJ

Nashua
Fody's: open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Newmarket
Lamprey Tavern: Chippy and the Ya Yas
Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Nashua
Studio 99: Aaron Larget-Caplan

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike
Press Room: jazz grill
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Matt Langley

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters:

CONCERTS

Venues
Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

- **Rodney Atkins** Thurs., Dec. 15, at 8 p.m., Lowell Auditorium
- **Bellevue Cadillac** Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
- **New Riders of The Purple Sage** Wed., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial
- **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m., Palace
- **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
- **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Palace
- **Beatlejuice** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Cap Center
- **Liz Longley** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
- **Little Feat** Sun., Jan. 8, at 8:30 p.m., Tupelo

acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

Monday, Dec. 19

Candia
Henderson's: electric rock open mike

Concord
Barley House:
Hermanos: Eric Chase
Red Blazer: open mike w/Matt Langley

Dover
Castaway's Boathouse: Denis Patrick's Merry Pranksters' open mike
Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: open mike

Manchester
Fratello's: Chris Lester
Milly's: Dom and Reid of Manchuka

Meredith
Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo

Merrimack
Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford
J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

Nashua
Studio 99: Django jam

Portsmouth
Press Room: John Leicht
Red Door: Amera-nouche, Palefighter

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Concord
Barley House: Irish sessions
Hermanos: Draa Hobbs
Tandy's: open mike w/ Calvin McFarlin

Dover
Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca,
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Scot Gibbs and the Usual Suspects

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Baked Naked, Liquid Courage

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester
Black Brimmer: DJ Chad
Fratello's: Charlie Christos
Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike w/Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Tom Denniston
Strange Brew: Peter Parcek

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua
Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Newmarket
Stone Church: blue-grass jam w/ Dave Talmage

Portsmouth
Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland, hoot open mike w/ Jerry Tillett

Seabrook
Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Antrim
Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn
Holiday's: DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen
Alan's: open mike

Concord
Hermanos: Lex & Joe
Tandy's: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: blues night w/ Lil' Harpo
Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Gilford
Patrick's: Paul Luff

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: DJ Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston
The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Rebel Express
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Joker's: Josh Logan
Penuche's: open mike w/ Friday After Five
Strange Brew: Sev

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Tim Theriault

Merrimack
Homestead: Gardner Berry

Milford
Clark's: open mike
J's Tavern: Lisa Guyer
Pasta Loft: Ryan Bossie

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge: open mike
Peddlers Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: acoustic jam

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Press Room: Andrew Merzi
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Salem
Murray's: acoustic open mike

In the spotlight



Ph.D. jazz piano at the Center

Jazz pianist Johannes Wallmann will tickle the ivories at the New Hampshire Jazz Center (nhjazz.com) at Pitman's Freight Room, 74 New Salem St., Laconia, on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. Wallmann, who was born in Germany and raised in Canada, studied at Berklee College of Music before earning a master's degree and Ph.D. in jazz studies from New York University. The two-time Canada Council artist grant recipient serves as director of jazz studies at California State University. Tickets cost $10 at the door and the venue is BYOB. Call 518-793-3183 for reservations.

In the spotlight



Laughs in Londonderry

Long-time comics Joe Yannetty and Sal Votano will bring laughs to Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, on Friday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $18 at tupelohalllondonderry.com or 437-5100.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Friday, Dec. 16

Londonderry
Tupelo: Joe Yannetty and Sal Voltano

Saturday, Dec. 17

Manchester
Headliners: Bob Seibel
Jokers: James Dorcey

Monday, Dec. 19

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wed., Dec. 21

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua
Penuche's: live standup

Monday, Dec. 26

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

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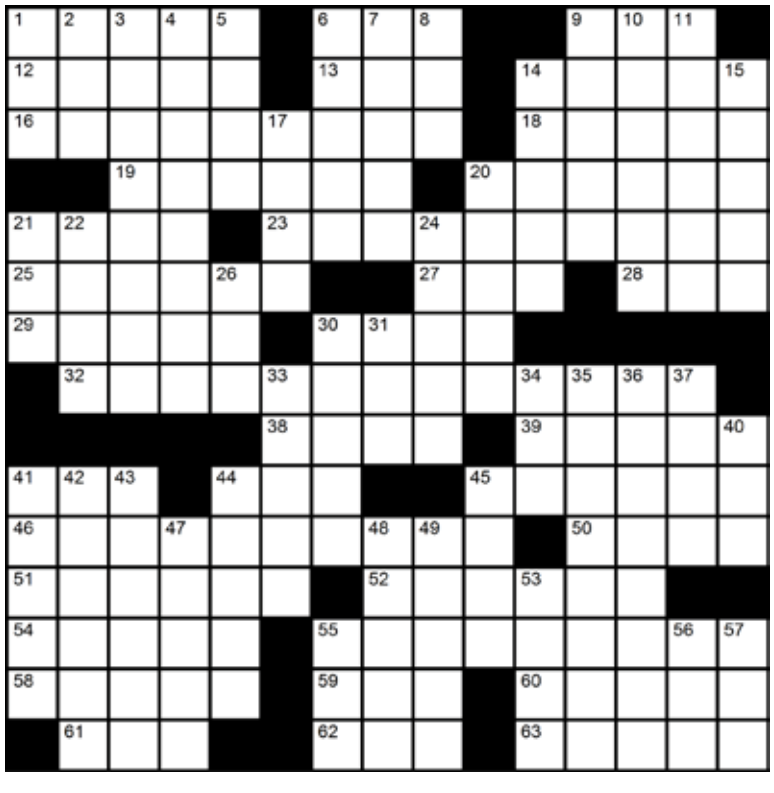


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Across

1 Drum from India
6 In a bygone time
9 Lithuania, once: abbr.
12 Erotic diarist Nin
13 Camera output, slangily
14 Bridge material
16 Demand that Kissinger squeal like a pig?
18 What things could always be
19 Judged
20 Joint
21 Melville character
23 Learn about all things rosy-colored?
25 Lean and muscular
27 Put in one's piehole
28 Body part that may be "on the line"
29 Time Warner launch of 1996
30 Gross-looking delicacy
32 Where 16-across, 23-across, 46-across and 55-across all got their work done
38 Finds work for
39 Hill of the Clarence Thomas scandal
41 Cash cow, so to speak
44 Holy folk, for short
45 Shellfish considered an aphrodisiac
46 Do the nasty with Jeter?
50 Flour measurements
51 Rapper's greeting
52 Japanese historical period that ended in 1868
54 Creed lead singer Scott ___
55 Ice skating area that's totally green?
58 Conversational switch
59 Title for a Khan
60 Singer Cruz
61 Noise
62 Printer's measures
63 "I put a spell ___..."



Down

1 Concept embodying yin and yang
2 Folk singer DiFranco
3 Biker's headwear: var.
4 Favor over other options
5 Tennis legend Arthur
6 It may cause snoring
7 Braces (for)
8 Acne-fighting brand
9 Bend down low
10 Novak Djokovic's country
11 Varnish ingredients
14 Said some bad words
15 Shallot relatives
17 One of many for "Mad Men"
20 Put off
21 Cameraman's certification, for short
22 Help breaking into a puzzle
24 "Save the ___" (breast cancer awareness phrase)
26 Ability to say clever things
30 One's homies
31 Mimic
33 Show up
34 Put (down)
35 Like duos Dharma & Greg or Mike & Molly
36 In a traditional way
37 Rung
40 "___ Poetica"
41 Deep hole
42 Played the horn
43 "The Karate Kid" guy who catches flies with chopsticks
44 Online call service
45 "All right, I get it already!"
47 "___ intended"
48 Sit on the throne
49 Krabappel and Ferber
53 Kitchen gadget and cookware company
55 Singer Corinne Bailey ___
56 Mark Tatulli comic strip
57 Former "Survivor" contestant ___-Man Chan

12/8

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All quotes are from *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen, born Dec. 16, 1775.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Mr. Bennet ... had always intended to visit [Mr. Bingley], though to the last always assuring his wife that he should not go; and till the evening after the visit was paid she had no knowledge of it.* A quiet, unpublicized visit could establish long-lasting connections.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three-and-twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character.* Spend some time really getting to know someone.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Between him and Darcy there was a very steady friendship, in spite of great opposition of character.* Complementary traits can do wonders together.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *An invitation to dinner was soon afterwards dispatched; and already had Mrs. Bennet planned the courses ... when an answer arrived which deferred it all. Mr. Bingley was obliged to be in town the following day, and, consequently, unable to accept the honour of their invitation, etc. Mrs. Bennet was quite disconcerted.* Don't be disconcerted by a declined invitation. A make-up date will go well.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *She could not imagine what business he could have in town so soon after his arrival in Hertfordshire; and she began to fear that he might be always flying about from one place to another...* A quick bout of flightiness will soon be over.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *"Elizabeth Bennet," said Miss Bingley, when the door was closed on her, "is one of those young ladies who seek to recommend themselves to the other sex by undervaluing their own ... in my opinion, it is a paltry device, a very mean art."* Don't pay attention to those who make themselves feel better by dragging others down.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *"Pride," observed Mary… "is a very common failing, I believe. ... Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. ... Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us."* Avoid both.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners. … but his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien, and the report which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having ten thousand a year.* Give your attention only where it is truly deserved.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *When Jane and Elizabeth were alone, the former, who had been cautious in her praise of Mr. Bingley before, expressed to her sister just how very much she admired him.* Let true feelings be expressed in confidence.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *To be fond of dancing was a certain step towards falling in love...* It's a great time to go dancing. The love part is up to you.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.* Examine your assumptions.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Not all that Mrs. Bennet, however, with the assistance of her five daughters, could ask on the subject, was sufficient to draw from her husband any satisfactory description of Mr. Bingley.* You will have to rely on second-hand sources for the time being.

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

			3	8			1	
		7				5		9
	9				2		6	
9				4		1		
1								7
		4		2				8
	7		9				3	
6		2				4		
	5			1	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/15

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

12/8

8	1	4	2	6	9	5	7	3
2	9	5	7	3	4	6	8	1
3	6	7	8	1	5	4	2	9
1	5	8	3	4	6	7	9	2
7	3	9	5	8	2	1	4	6
4	2	6	1	9	7	3	5	8
5	8	1	4	2	3	9	6	7
6	7	2	9	5	1	8	3	4
9	4	3	6	7	8	2	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/08

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Chinese Education Values

To get to their school, 80 children (aged 6 to 17) in the mountaintop village of Pili, China, near the borders with Tajikistan and Afghanistan, make a 120-mile journey that includes 50 miles on foot or by camel. The most dangerous parts of the route are an inches-wide path cut into a cliff (over a 1,000-foot drop), a 600-foot-long zip-line drop and crossings of four freezing rivers (easier in winter when they are frozen solid). The kids must make the chaperoned treks four times a year — coming and going for each of two long sessions. According to one teacher, Ms. Su, the kids generally enjoy the adventure. The government is building a road to the village, but it will not be finished until 2013.

Cultural Diversity

• Globally (except in Japan), family-run businesses underperform those run by professional managers. Japanese corporations often seem to have a talented son to take over for his father. The main reason for that, according to an August Freakonomics radio report, is that the family scions usually first recruit an ideal "son" and then adopt him, often also encouraging their daughters to marry the men. (Japanese adage: "You can't choose your sons, but you can choose your sons-in-law.") If the man is already married, sometimes he and his wife will both get adopted. In fact, while 98 percent of U.S. adoptions are of children, 98 percent of Japan's are of adults.

• At an October ceremony in the Satara district in India's Maharashtra state, 285 girls were allowed to change their names, as each of them had originally been named the Hindi word "Nakusa," which translates to "unwanted" (expressing their parents' disappointment at not having had a son). In Satara, only 881 girls are born for every 1,000 boys, reportedly the result of abortion, given the expense of raising a girl (whose family is expected to pay for any wedding and give a dowry to the groom's family).

• Swedish Judges Get Tough: (1) A court dismissed charges against two 20-year-old men in October, accused of having bared a passed-out, 18-year-old woman's breasts at a party and taken photographs. Since the woman was not "aware" that she was being molested, the act was not a crime, ruled the Stockholm District Court. (2) Also in October, the Falun District Court in central Sweden convicted 23 women of possession of "large quantities" of child pornography, but gave them suspended sentences, merely fining them in amounts as low as the equivalent of $375. Their male "ringleader" was sentenced to one year in prison.

• Dubai is a city of towering, architecturally brilliant skyscrapers, but since all were built only in the last several decades, the city's central sewer system has not been able to keep up. Consequently, reported NPR's "Fresh Air" in November, only a few are hooked up to the municipal system, and the remainder must hire fleets of tanker trucks to carry away the waste water. The trucks then must queue up, sometimes for 24 hours at a time, to dispose of it at treatment plants.

Latest Religious Messages

• Factory worker Billy Hyatt, who was fired in 2009 by north Georgia plastics company Pliant Corp., filed a lawsuit in August alleging illegal religious discrimination. Pliant (now called Berry Plastics) required its employees to wear stickers indicating the number of consecutive accident-free days, and March 12, 2009, was the 666th day. When Hyatt refused to wear "the mark of the beast" (embracing that number, he thought, would condemn him to hell), he was suspended and then fired.

• The International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo., recently celebrated 12 consecutive years of around-the-clock musical praying, which Pastor Mike Bickle and his evangelical congregation believe is necessary to fight the devil's continuous infiltration of the realms of power in society (business, media, government, etc.). "To keep the music going," according to an October Los Angeles Times dispatch, "the church has 25 bands playing throughout the week in two-hour sets," divided between "devotional" music and "intercessions," in which God is petitioned to help some cause or place. Bickle claims that there are "thousands" of 24/7 prayer groups in the world.

• Israelis lately experience attacks not just from the outside but from its own ultra-Orthodox communities (about 10 percent of the country, and growing), whose activists have jeered and stoned "immodestly" dressed women and girls (as young as 6) on the street, defaced women's images on billboards, forced illegal gender segregation in public facilities (including buses and sidewalks), and vandalized businesses that treat women as equals (such as one ice cream shop — since female customers lick the cones in public). An especially violent minority, the Sikrikim, employ some tactics reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan in America.

Questionable Judgments

Each August in Urakawa, Japan, a "hallucination and delusion competition" takes place among visiting alcoholics and sufferers of mental disorders, who in principle are helped by bonding with fellow patients and revealing their failures and successes. The Bethel Festival, named for its sponsor, brings about 600 people together for on-stage presentations (sometimes in the form of song or dance) and awards a grand prize to a standout visitor (one year, to a woman who lived for four days in a public restroom after a voice in her head told her to, and in another year, to a man who had overcome a 35-year stretch of never straying more than two yards from his mother). (Some mental-disorder professionals believe the festival is too easily mockable by insensitive outsiders.)

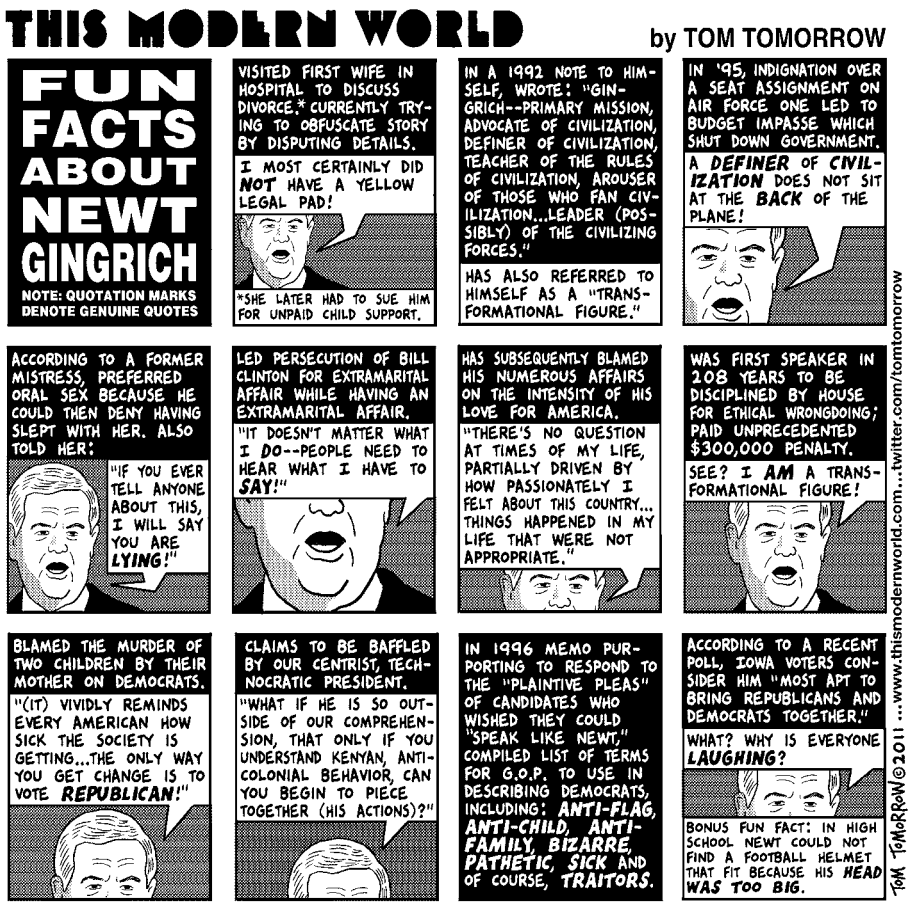
Bright Ideas

How does an extortionist (or kidnapper) safely collect the money that has been dropped off for him? In July, police staking out a vacant field in Colerain Township, Ohio, after leaving the $22,000 ordered by alleged extortionist Frank Pence, waited for about an hour, but Pence failed to show. Then, one officer noticed the money slowly moving across the field and finally caught up to Pence, who was pulling a very, very long, partially concealed rope from a location a distance from the drop site.

Least Competent Criminal

A lawyer's first rule of cross-examination is to never ask a question you don't already know the answer to, but criminal defendants who act as their own lawyers typically do not get that memo. Philome Cesar, charged with about 25 robberies in the Allentown, Pa., area, began questioning his alleged victims at his trial in November. Please describe, he asked the first, what the robber sounded like. Answered victim Daryl Evans, "He sounded like you." After Cesar asked a second victim the same question and received the same answer, he decided to stop cross-examining the victims. (He was convicted of 19 counts.)

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, www.NewsoftheWeird.com, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679. Copyright 2011 Chuck Shepherd. Distributed by Universal UClick.



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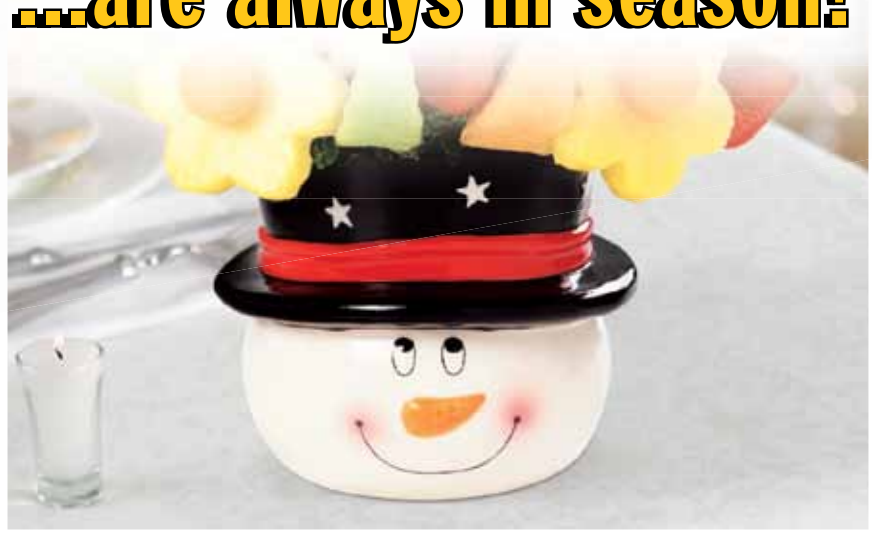
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